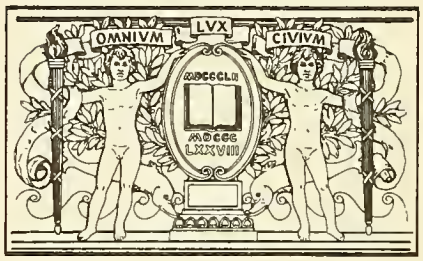
In Search of Kith and Kin

The History of a Southern Black Family

Barnetta McGhee White



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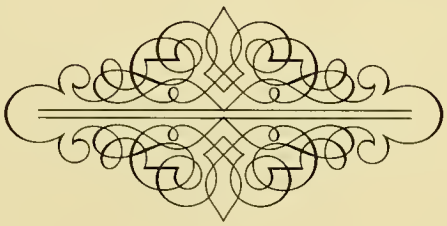

Barnetta McGhee White

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DEDICATION

TO FRANKY ...

You done good...

... Now, through my children, young and free,
I realize the blessings denied to me. ...
... I nourished the dream that nothing could smother
Deep in my breast—the Negro Mother.

"The Negro Mother"
Langston Hughes

IN SEARCH OF KITH AND KIN
THE HISTORY OF A SOUTHERN BLACK FAMILY

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INTRODUCTION

Once upon a time...

The good fairy tales have always started with those words which served as a clue to the readers and listeners of the story that another world would open up to provide transportation for the imagination to take them to a different time and place. Transportation was available through the use of the words and the agility of the mind. Yet, this is not a fairy tale, for this account, though incredible, is far from imaginary. Nor can this narrative be considered a fable because it is based on fact and the described events did occur. Could this then be called a legend? Perhaps. Myth? Not likely. Most of the things of which I have written can be, and have been, verified. Some of the others fit into the classification of "traditions", which are statements, beliefs and customs that have been handed down orally from generation to generation. In the end, it is not really important what word you will use to describe this. It is important that you find it interesting enough to read it, learn from it, and add to it if necessary. It would be helpful if someone reading this tale would add some of the missing, early, facts and make the information available to this writer.

Once upon a time... there were two people, a man and a woman, named Robert and Caroline. Robert was born around 1824 and Caroline around 1822. Not long after the Civil War ended they used the surname of McGehee. After having lived for most of their lives as slaves in Granville County, North Carolina, they both died after 1900 but before adequate records of death were required to be kept in 1913. Together they had at least nine children who were born as slaves (the youngest was born in 1865), lived to be adults, married, and had children of their own. Some highlights of their lives:

FRANK (1841-1946), the oldest son, accompanied his master to the fighting known as the war between the states. He lived for at least 106 years which fact alone was sufficient to cause extra attention to be focused on him.

Although this was a family of farmers, FANNIE's husband, Lee Pool, had been taught the trade of masonry during slavery. He in turn passed this craft along to his sons and grandsons. There is strong evidence that FANNIE (1843-1920) was sold away from her parents and siblings during her years as a slave.

Left rudderless in a strange land when her husband died, MANDY (1845-1915), along with her many children was brought, by her father, back to the security of the family rather than live her life among strangers. How did he know that she was alone?

DAVID (1848-1914) married the strong-willed Rose Norman and they were the only ones to leave the extended family and move away from "McGehee-Town" by the turn of the century. They remained in the county and maintained family ties.

Four of the McGehee children married four of the children of Charles and Phyllis Hicks. ISABELLA (1853-1934) started the trend by setting up housekeeping with Isaac Hicks by 1870.

FREDERICK (1856-1939) liked to fish, hunt, and trap more than anything else. Far into his old age he could be found in the woods that he loved.

ALEXANDER (1858-1928) outlived two wives, barely. Although he cared for little else, the hard life of farming took its inevitable toll.

First one plague or disease or the other picked off THOMAS' pogency one after the other. He and Lucy held on to their dignity if not the land (1863-1947).

The last McGehee-Hicks union was made with the marriage of MOLLIE (1865-1942 - "Mary" - on some early documents) to Otis Hicks. It was said that Mollie believed in, and practiced, conjuration and that she was not the only member of the extended family who believed in evil and good spirits.

It is quite possible (and probable) that Caroline and Robert had other children but no records of any remain. If there were others it can only be supposed that they died at a young age or in infancy.

This then, is the story of Robert and Caroline, and of their 1,500+ descendants to the present day. It is also peripherally the story of an extended, agrarian family tied to their small plot of land and to each other until forced off one and

apart from the other as they moved away to seek a better life and relief from the never-ending drudgery that had become their legacy.

The sources used to reconstruct this story were conversations with older relatives and natives of Granville County, United States Census data, documents in the North Carolina State Archives, and information in the Granville and other county courthouses. The Register of Deeds of Granville County, Flora Mann, was especially understanding and sensitive to my need to spend many hours reading historical documents. The Southern Historical Collection housed at the University of North Carolina, was drawn upon for general background information of the people, the place, and the time.

A very special thanks is extended to Edith Young Daniels for continuing the excellent record-keeping as the most recent secretary of Huntsville Baptist Church, home church of Robert and Caroline, and where some of their descendants still worship. The baptismal records kept by this secretary and others before her, were a tremendous help in keeping the years of birth and death reasonably accurate. Her cache of old obituaries also contributed many missing family links. Even so, many of the descendants could not be remembered, were not known, and many known could not be located. Therefore, many of the birth and death years which occurred in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century must be considered a "best guess".

I am especially indebted to Ruth Payne, who although not a McGhee (the spelling of the surname changed with different branches of the family) knew many of them because of her relatedness to the Hicks. A retired teacher, she had taught many of the descendants during her many years at Orange Street School. Although very ill when I was deeply involved in my research, she took the time and interest to share many memories from her sharp, clear mind.

I am particularly grateful to J. R. Lankford, Jr., Iconographic Archivist at the North Carolina Archives who permitted his staff to copy some of the fragile, early photographs, and to J. Walton Haywood, Photographer, for his sensitive touch in duplicating them.

Many of the relatives had never heard of me before the initial contact, but they knew my father. This was enough for them to open their hearts to share and to search their attics for photographs. I am deeply indebted to all of them.

To help you interpret the line of descendants, the following plan in outline form has been used throughout this work. Robert's and Caroline's children are each described in separate chapters. Enclosed in parentheses () on the right side margin are the number of children each descendant had. Children who died in infancy are also included. Within each chapter, this design is seen:

— Roman numerals I, II, etc., are grandchildren of Robert and Caroline, the third generation
— Capital letters A, B, etc., are great grandchildren, the fourth generation.
— Arabic numerals, 1, 2, etc. are great, great, grandchildren, the fifth generation.
— Small letters a, b, etc. are great, great, great grandchildren, the sixth generation
— Arabic numerals enclosed in parentheses (1), (2), etc. are the seventh generation.
— Small letters enclosed in parentheses (a), (b), etc. are the eighth generation.
— Lower case Roman Numerals i, ii, etc. are the ninth generation.

The symbols for each chapter will look like this:

I. ( )
A. ( )
1. ( )
a. ( )
(1). ( )
(a). ( )
i. ( )

It is inevitable that there are errors in the spelling of names, the years of birth, etc. For these and all other omissions, I apologize. If these errors are brought to my attention, they will be corrected in any subsequent publication.

CHAPTER I

THE EARLY YEARS

Caroline and Robert

A crust of bread and a corner to sleep in,
A minute to smile and an hour to weep in,
A pint of joy to a peck of trouble,
And never a laugh but the moans come double;
And that is life!

"Life"
Paul Lawrence Dunbar

CHAPTER I

CAROLINE and ROBERT
1822-1912 1824-1903

The Early Years

Heading North on Highway #96 this muggy summer morning, my mind wanders. I am so far away that I almost miss the sharp right turn at the crossroads of Kinton Forks. I slow down, make my turn and accelerate hesitantly, knowing that another right turn is imminent. . .here it is. Now, how far must I go? The odometer in my car shows that I have traveled seven tenths of a mile when I see the first barn on the left of the highway, and farther back in the woods, a cluster of three other barns. I brake and turn left off the hard surface of the highway onto the rutted, red dirt road of wagon wheels and tractor tracks. I stop, get out, face north and survey the surroundings. I really did intend to make this journey in the winter time when the underbrush would have been died away. Oh, well. I plung in.

The honeysuckle and poison ivey whip at my boots and jeans but I stride on. I never knew before now that pine trees could grow so tall and wide in forty years. Has it been that long since this plot of soil was used to inter some distant relative or the other? It has, and in another forty years no one will know that this graveyard lies here.

The trees and undergrowth have covered every trace of what this place was. No etched granite names stand watch over sunken mounds and only occassionally do oval placements of white stones gathered from some far off place or morticians' rusted crosses, the identifying paper long rotted and blown away, mark the niches of unnamed individuals in the sunken earth. Thomas' children Lena, Kittie Elnora, Coln Leak, David, Willie, and his grandchildren Sidney, Ethel and Elbert lie somewhere beneath my feet. Mollie and Otis with their children Hattie Bell and Robert, Alex with his first wife Virginia and his children Elnora and Elmus, Fed and Fannie and their daughter Julia, David's Della, Isabella and Ike, and many forgotten others continue the litany. Caroline and Robert are here too. They had come from the land and returned to the land. It was their world and all that they knew. Perhaps some archaeologist in another century will come across these bones and wonder to what kind of people they belonged.

It was this desire to know what kind of people these McGehees were that led me on the long, tedious, yet exhilarating search to penetrate the somber silences surrounding the institution of slavery in Granville County, North Carolina and to draw a very personalized image of the lives of just one black family in that area over a span of time of less than two centuries. I had no illusions nor preconceived notions about what I would find, but rather promised myself to be open to follow wherever the clues would lead.

Granville County, North Carolina, situated in the northern piedmont of the state was formed in 1746. Its northern boundary is Mecklenburg County, Virginia. On its western flank lies Person County while Warren County (now Vance) lies to the east. Franklin, Wake and old Orange counties connect along its southern border. Named for John Carteret, Earl Granville who owned much of the upper part of the state in the early 1700's, it is surely the "goodliest" of the "goodliest place" as recent public announcements describe the state. The contours of the undulating surface lends itself to a rural society of small farms planted in tobacco, wheat, corn and some cotton up through the early twentieth century.

From its very beginning it needed workers for these fields and as unsophisticated farming practices leached nutriments from the soil even more land mass was required and still more workers from the now entrenched practice of slavery were needed to support this custom of bondage in America. My ancestors were among those workers and I embarked on the journey to discover who they were.

Even though I had much to learn about this family, I realized that I already knew much. The oral tradition had been much stronger in some branches of the family than in others and I could still remember tales heard in my childhood

from the old ones who had passed on. The enormous task would be to separate fact from fiction by searching the written records to provide some documentation of the lives that they had lived. I would travel many more miles and pour over uncounted stacks of records before I finished. But I knew that I was off on a treasure hunt where the clues were tantalizingly oblique but the treasure was real and worth finding. I felt that I was putting together a mosaic without knowing what the picture would be or, placing together pieces of a zig-saw puzzle without first seeing the picture on top of the box. I never lost confidence that the picture would emerge once the pieces were put together.

One of the most difficult parts of the task of writing the family history was in getting people to talk. I had left the State at an early age to pursue my education and had only recently returned after an absence of many years when I began the project. Even though the name of my father was sufficient to get me into many doors, it was often not enough for the open discussions which were required for a real feel of the people, the place, and the time.

The question most often asked was "Why do you want to do this?" My answer: "For our children and our children's children." More than one person said, "Let it lay!" It was particularly frustrating to be told, "I can't remember because when we were growing up, we just didn't talk about IT" The big IT was slavery with all its attendant demeaning of human beings. It became clear in my search of the facts upon which to anchor this tale how true it is that the victimized often feels guilty about being the victim. This was most apparent when the conversation inevitably focused upon white slave-holders fathering children of their black female slaves or black slaves fathering children of white women. On other occasions, the openness of society in the 1980's made talking about many forbidden things easier. It was from this mixed bag of reactions to my inquiries that I proceeded.

When one attempts to put down on paper the history of a black family, born in the South in slavery, the difficulties of being accurate are almost overwhelming. Slaves did not have surnames, and even though the same given names were handed down and repeated generation after generation in a family, great attention had to be paid to the location in the state and in the county of that family before any conclusions could be made. After the war ended they often took the surname of one of their slave-holders. At other times they made up names to reflect how they felt about themselves. That they were finally free is reflected in the numerous families called Freeman. How grand and filled with aspirations it must have been to name a child "Squire" or "Doctor"!

With the very prevalent practice of trading and selling slaves as individuals rather than as family units, it is quite miraculous for any black family to be able to trace its ancestry for more than a few generations, at best. Another common practice of the day that confounds researchers was the hiring out of slaves from one plantation to another. If a slave moved from one location and master to another, he would not necessarily know if he had been hired out for one or more years, or if he had been sold. Many sales were made privately, with a handshake and no written record was kept of the transaction. The sellee would not know of the sale until faced with fait accompli. The plantation master, or mistress for that matter, would tell the chosen one to take a message in the form of a letter to a neighboring plantation. The unsuspecting slave complied and that was the last that his family ever saw of him. Another ploy would be to send a slave girl on an errand to take a thimble and thread to the mistress of the next plantation. Once there she would not return.[1]

Slaves were often used as collateral to secure loans. When the loan was not repaid the slaves were taken by the lender. These paper I.O.U.s, or Fi Fas,[2] along with their attendant human securities, were frequently traded and exchanged among the local planters who were friends and competitors. Slaves who were used in this manner could move to many different slaveholders over a lifetime.

Many slaves were sold at public auction on the courthouse steps. This building still stands in the center of the town of Oxford where Main Street now dead-ends with Hillsboro Street. This procedure was followed most often when the slaveholders were in debt and had to sell some property to pay off that debt. Sometimes they were sold in this manner for estate settlements. The cash from the sale then could be equally divided among those persons who presented a legal claim for it, such as widows, children and other relatives. At still other times, this public auction was a business venture and as in all other businesses, the object was to make money.[3]

During the period of slavery in America, the wealth and prestige of the white slaveholder was determined in large part by the number of slaves to which he held claim. When the owner died, with or without a will, the transfer of slaves along with all other property, effected an equitable division of his property to his heirs. In most of the old wills the slaveholder willed slaves by name, thus determining which ones would go to which children and other heirs. The ages of the slaves and/or the years in which they were born were also often included. It was easy to determine the relative worth of slaves by the sequence of the property listed in the estate inventories of the time. A typical inventory would list a legacy of 300 acres of land, seven Negroes, four horses, about one dozen cows and calves, about twenty hogs, about ten sheep, etc. It would appear that slaves were more valuable than horses but not as valuable as land.[4]

ADDENDUM

IN SEARCH OF KITH AND KIN:

Barnetta McGhee White

I tried to be especially careful in the main body of this work not to repeat the many stereotypical preconceptions that I had not of my own accord found to be accurate. However, I did not follow my own rule in a very significant way when I made the statement early in the text that "slaves did not have surnames", and, "after the war ended they often took the surname of one of their slaveholders". These were statements I had heard all my life and in spite of my good intentions they crept into my writings without the qualifying explanations which should have accompanied them. "Most slaveholders, either in speaking or in writing, referred to slaves by a first name only". . .would have been a more accurate statement. Slaves did have surnames which they themselves know, even if the slaveholder did not. Never did I find in my search for kith and kin one relative who used the surname of the last slaveholder of record, which was Taylor.

In following the slaves of Benjamin Hester from his death in 1830 through the division of the estate in 1844, through their many years of being hired out, I found several slaves with last names, e.g., Harry Gilliam, Harry Johnson, Stephen Holden (there were two slaves named Stephen), John Davis, John Howard, Bob Ragland, and Bob Golah (Goliah). These surnames obviously were known by the slaveholders, but were not consistently recorded for each year's accounting. The trend to record the last name of a particular slave seemed to depend somewhat on having

more than one slave with the same first name, therefore needing some method to distinguish between them. At the division of the estate property, at least 20 of these same slaves were purchased by David I. Young and those with surnames as noted in the papers of Benjamin Hester's estate, retained those names when David I. Young's estate was divided in 1848. Harry Johnson was then over 65 years old, Harry Gilliam at least 60 years old, John Davis 35, and John Howard, 18. Other slaves identified with first and last names were Sally Long and her child James, and Mary Homes.

Herbert G. Gutman, in his study of a group of eighteenth century slaves stated, ". . .most slaves had surnames, and most with surnames in 1783 had surnames different from their last owners" (Gutman, 1976, p. 244). He then concluded that it appeared that the last name was adopted by slaves from "the slaveholder of origin" (Gutman, pp. 239-250). It would seem that the surname could be passed to successive generations through either the mother or the father, but most often the father. My own research tends to support this concept with glaring exceptions such as Fillis Hicks (p. 18 of this book) who had a twin brother named John Short!

Rose Norman McGhee was able to use the surname Norman because she was the third generation, at least, which had been born in this one family of slaveholders. On the other hand, it appears that neither Robert McGhee nor his brothers and sisters grew up in such stable circumstances. It is quite probable that they, and many others like them, changed hands, locations, and ownership many, many times before freedom.

GUTMAN, Herbert G. The Black Family in slavery and Freedom. 1750-1925. New York: Pantheon Books, 1976.

These methods of buying, selling, and trading slaves in Granville County, North Carolina, were fairly typical of methods used throughout the region of the slave holding territory. If anything, North Carolina generally had the reputation of treating its slaves rather humanely, if that was possible within the institution of slavery. This does not mean that the county did not have its share of slave runners, but these were the exceptions rather than the rule.

The history of the Black family in America is inextricably tied to the family histories of the major slaveholders of that time and in that place. For this family these slaveholders were named Hicks, Littlejohn, Burwell, Norman, Cogwell, Hester, Taylor, someone named McGehee somewhere, and perhaps some others which have not yet been discovered. Were they cruel or kind, indifferent or caring, wealthy or poor? Did they marry women who brought with them dowries that included slaves? Were they business men or farmers? Did they hold many slaves or few? I knew that I would have to understand their consciousness and intellect because only they could know with any degree of certainty where Caroline and Robert were born and who their parents were. The answers to my questions would be found in the records and papers that they had left behind. I could only hope that they were obsessive record keepers and correspondents as I began the search.

Caroline

Oral tradition was that this was a family of slaves rather than free-born. Knowing that children took the status (slave or free) of their mother, I decided to start my search with the mother of this brood. I began the quest by locating every available marriage certificate and death certificate of Caroline's and Robert's children, namely; Frank, Fannie, Amanda, David, Isabella, Frederick, Alexander, Thomas, and Mollie. A number of the documents gave the name "Carrie" or "Caroline Littlejohn" as the mother of the person for whom the certificate was made. The knowledge that Caroline had used the surname of Littlejohn had been lost to all family members living at the time of this discovery. With this information a path of inquiry opened up for me. I now knew that someone by the name of Littlejohn had at one time or the other held Caroline, and possibly all of her children, as slaves.

Records revealed only one family of Littlejohns who were property owners and slaveholders during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Granville County. this family was headed by one Thomas Littlejohn who was one of the sons of William Littlejohn who had emigrated from Iverness, Scotland during the mid 1700's to settle in Chowan County on the east coast of North Carolina. Before the turn of the century Thomas had moved to Granville County and married Elizabeth Mutter whose father was also from Scotland. In his later years he was Clerk and Master of the Court of Equity for the county after being involved earlier in merchandizing and farming.[5]

A careful reading of the deed books and the minutes of the Court of Equity and the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions revealed that he was involved in all kinds of transactions throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. Sometimes he was the principle character in these proceedings and at other times he acted on the periphery of the action. At one time he owned the 50 acres of land upon which the town of Oxford was built.[6] He was named the administrator of numerous estates and the guardian of minors in more than one case. He was certainly involved in the community and in practically everyone's business in that community. He died in Warren County in 1854. This last fact, which I did not discover until after many months of searching, resulted in both Granville and Warren County having some legal jurisdiction over his estate. The search had almost come to an impasse until the location of his death was discovered.

Information obtained from the early population census was relatively easy to analyze. Before 1850, only white male heads of households and free persons of color who headed households were named; all others were enumerated under columns headed by wide age ranges. For example: in 1830 after the name of the head of the household the number was listed of white males under 5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-30, 30-40, etc. The same enumeration was done for white females. Unless one knew the family well there would be no way to determine who specifically was in a particular household, but one could determine how many were there and the general age ranges of the members of that household.

The same system of enumeration was done for male slaves, female slaves and free persons of color. In 1820 when Thomas Littlejohn was approximately 47 years old he held sixty-five slaves in the following age ranges:

12 male slaves under 14
11 male slaves of 14 and under 26
5 male slaves of 26 and under 45

1 male slave of 45 and upward
19 female slaves of 14 and under 26
10 female slaves of 26 and under 45
4 female slaves of 45 and upward[7]

This was most discouraging. There would be no method I could use to find Caroline's mother in such a crowd. I had determined from later census records that Caroline had been born around 1822 and I believed that her mother would be among the slaves held in 1820; if indeed the slaveholder had not purchased one or both of them at a later date.

By 1830, the picture had changed dramatically. Littlejohn held only twenty slaves. For the first time one free colored male of 24 and under 36 was in the household. From the extant apprentice bonds, I knew that this was one David Damon (b. 1805) who had been indentured to Littlejohn in 1824 to learn shoemaking. The 1830 enumeration of slaves showed:

1 male slave under 10
3 male slaves of 10 and under 24
3 male slaves of 24 and under 36
3 male slaves of 36 and under 55
1 male slave over 55
3 female slaves under 10
1 female slave of 10 and under 24
2 female slaves of 24 and under 36
2 female slaves of 36 and under 55
1 female slave of 55 and under 100[8]

This was certainly a more managable number of people to work with but the broad age ranges still did not give me enough information to decide that the ancestors for whom I was searching were among the number reported. Caroline could have been any one of the three females under 10 years of age when the counting was done, and her mother among the older ones.

There was also an indentured servant named Henry Fuller (b. 1825) enumerated in the next census. He was not listed by name (this was discovered from the indenture bonds) but was enumerated as one free colored male of 10 years old and under 24 years. This enumeration, taken on 9 October 1840, showed only three slaves; 1 male 10 and under 24, and 2 females 10 and under 24.[9]

These reductions in the number of slaves held over a span of twnety years was sudden and dramatic. One could argue that Littlejohn was getting on in years, and that farming, even though it was greatly dependent upon slave labor, is hardly an occupation for a man nearly 70 years of age. Another argument for the sharp reduction in holdings was that he had perhaps made some bad business decisions and had to sell the slaves to pay debts. A more logical propostion is the strong possibility that he was, in his younger years, involved in the domestic slave trade. There is some indication that he was somehow involved with Lewis Taylor and Archer Cauthon in their business venture of purchasing slaves to sell in Alabama.[10] There are no records to show that he farmed enough land in 1820 to justify the need to hold 65 people in slavery. Whatever the reason, perhaps a combination of all of these, his holding of slaves decreased from 65 in 1820 to three in 1840. By any measure this was a sharp and dramatic decrease.

The last will and testament of Thomas B. Littlejohm was located in the Warren County Courthouse.[11] Not one slave was named in that document. Instead, the will revealed a man who was most anxious ". . .to protect from loss the sureites that have signed my several official bonds as Clerk & Master of the Court of Equity for the County of Greenville. . .was one of the main objects I had in view, in executing the deed of trust to Dr. John R. Hicks, as trustee, dated the 29th of July 1840. . .after the payment of my debts, I give and bequeath the whole of my estate of every description to my daughter Mrs. Margaret M. Atkinson. . ."

Where were the slaves since no mention of them was in the will? By this time I was so involved in the treasure hunt that I could not turn back. Where was the deed of trust? It was discovered recorded among the Granville County deeds.[12]

It was as I had suspected; Littlejohn was deeply in debt, not only because his official bonds were significant, but because of other debts as well. Land and other property was turned over to John R. Hicks with instructions to liquidate to pay off the debts. The eleven names of slaves, who were in trust, almost leaped off the page toward me.

Pleasant, Reuben and Robin were to go to a Thomas Lewis for a debt. These names as well as the next names of Andrew and Milly were not familiar to me. And then ". . .Franky & her children Caroline, Isabella, William,

Frederick, & Alexander. . ." which John R. Hicks was ". . .to sell the said slaves, lands, and other property herein coveyed, after due advertisement, upon a credit of six months. . .Thomas B. by consent of the parties is to remain in possession of the said lands, slaves and other property until a sales shall be made. . ."[13]

I had always known the strong oral tradition of the black family in America by which one generation passed down to the next who they were and from where they had come. Each of the early generations left clues for others to follow; a trail, just as surely as if they had been in a wooded wilderness and had notched trees along the way or laid a line of colored stones or bits of cloth. The trail was in the names which they chose for their children. In the wilderness of slavery, stripped of their identity this was the method that they chose to maintain family ties. Here was not only Caroline, but her mother and her sister and brothers as well. Later she was to name her eldest son and first born Frank, in memory of her mother, Franky. The memories of her sister Isabella and brothers Frederick and Alexander were assured of continuing when she gave her children those names. If Caroline had a child named William, he must have died in infancy because her other children did not know of him enough to ever mention that name to any of their descendants.

Another loose piece then fell into place. I became aware that I had been holding the record of Franky's purchase for some months without realizing the significance of what I had.[14] Misfiled under documents of a later time, I realized that the receipt was dated in 1815. By the year 1845, the year I had first thought was the date of the document, Littlejohn was in the process of selling land and slaves to pay his debts, rather than buying them.

The document, written in Danville, Virginia, on December 29th 1815, showed that Thomas B. Littlejohn had paid the sum of four hundred and twenty-five dollars to Thomas P. Atkinson for the purchase of Franky. Others named on the receipt were also familiar. His daughter, Margaret, had married a Roger Atkinson from Virginia at a later time, so the signature on the receipt was in all probability that of Roger's father or grandfather, both of whom were named Roger. The body of the receipt mentions Mr. James T. Littlejohn (son of Thomas B.) as an "agent" for the transaction. This was another clue to support the theory that Thomas B. Littlejohn was likely involved in the domestic slave trade during the early 1800's.

Exhibit A of this chapter is a copy of that receipt.

Records revealing when the slaves named in the trust were sold have not yet been found. Oxford newspapers, published during those years, have been read and none contained the advertisements required in the deed of trust.[15] Granville County Deed books, which included many bills of sale for slaves as well as for land, appear not to include these transactions.[16] It is not reasonable to conclude that the sales were made and some record not kept of them. John R. Hicks was too precise and exact a man not to have followed his orders strictly. His execution and administration of his father's estate is a study in attention to detail.[17] John R., acting as trustee for Littlejohn, sold the land identified in the deed of trust beginning in 1852 and continuing through 1857, and in each instance he recorded the deal and referred to the trust as the authority for his actions.[18] For him to sell the slaves and not record the transactions seems out of character.

From sixty-five slaves in 1820, to twenty slaves in 1830, to three slaves in 1840 is only information about numbers and not about specific people. There is no sure way of determining which of Littlejohn's slaves had been bought, sold, or had died in the intervening years without them being named in some document or the other. The eleven which were named in the July, 1840 trust, were legally turned over to Hicks at that time and in all probability were not among the three counted in the 1840 Census as belonging to Littlejohn, because the Census was taken in October, three months after the deed was executed.

Placing those particular slaves in the deed of trust to John R. Hicks was a way of protecting them from creditors other than the one specifically named in the trust. Different slaves, not named in the trust, were sold by the sheriff to pay debts in the years following 1840. For example, two of Littlejohn's slaves by the name of Frances and Joseph were sold in 1843 to satisfy various debts.[19] I believe that at some time between the 1840 deed and the 1850 Census most, although not all, of those named left the control of Littlejohn for other homes. When they left and to whom they went is not known at this time.

Caroline was one of those who did not go, if one is to believe her oldest son's (Frank) description of his first master, the details of which are in the following chapter. Frank also said that his father, Robert, was already being held by Richard P. Taylor, and thus was not on the same plantation with the children and their mother.

Tradition has it that Richard P. Taylor was the last slaveholder of record of Caroline and her children before the Civil War ended. That he had something to do with this family, whether by ownership or by hire, is supported by many documents, the strongest being the record of Frank's service with him in the Confederate Army. According to Frank, he had always belonged to Littlejohn until that infamous sale on the steps of the courthouse when he, his brother and his mother were sold. If Taylor did have this family, it certainly occured after 1850.

That it was really Thomas B. Littlejohn and not his son James nor Richard P. Taylor who held Caroline and her children at least until after the 1850 census was taken is supported by the following excerpts from that document. The Slave Schedule of the Population Census of 1850 for the first time specified age, sex and color of slaves — B for Black; M for Mulatto (which was a visual judgment rather than any scientific fact).

	Thomas B. Littlejohn[20] (16 slaves)	**Richard P. Taylor[21] (11 slaves)**		**James Littlejohn[22] (7 slaves)**	
1-24-male	M	1-35-male	B	1-60-male	B
1-12-male	M	1-25-male	M-Robert?	1-50-female	M
1-10-male	M-Frank?	1-21-male	B	1-35-male	B
1-50-male	B	1-14-male	M	1-19-female	M
1-40-female	B	1-12-male	B	1-19-female	B
1-27-female	M-Caroline?	1- 9-male	B	1-10-male	B
1-25-female	M	1-6/12-male	B	1-18-female	M
1-26-female	M	1-23-female	B		
1-35-female	B	1- 8-female	B		
1- 8-female	M-Fannie?	1- 6-female	M		
1- 6-female	M-Amanda?	1- 4-female	B		
1- 2-male	B				
1- 6-male	B				
1- 4-female	M				
1- 2-male	M-David?				
1-9/12-male	B				

I concluded that the slaves who were my ancestors were still in the possession of Thomas B. Littlejohn at the time that he wrote his will in October of 1850. The will, written ten years after the deed of trust refers to the trust as his current wishes. If all property named in the trust had been disposed of there would be no need of mentioning that document in 1850.

A legal will determines how one's property, personal and real, is divided after death. During this era it was also the custom for the executor of an estate to take an itemized, detailed inventory of that estate, placing a value on each item. This document was made known to all the heirs and was filed with the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Most if not all, of his property was located in Granville County, yet the will was filed in Warren County where Littlejohn died in 1854. It appears that the inventory was not filed in either location. It was critical to locate it because slaves were always named in such documents and quite often their ages were also given. It would also help to pin point the transfer of this family to another slaveholder. One could certainly be more accurate in drawing conclusions from an inventory than from the information found in the Slave Schedules of U.S. Census.

In Warren County, the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions met in its usual quarterly deliberations and among the minutes of those meetings we find:

> November Court, 1854 - "Ordered that James T. Littlejohn, Ext. of Thomas B. Littlejohn have until next court to return his inventory."[23]
> February Court, 1855 - "Ordered that James T. Littlejohn have until next court to make his return of his inventory."[24]

No evidence was found that James, who in 1840, had taken the oath of an attorney for the Superior Court of Granville County,[25] ever did return the inventory.

Without an inventory, plantation records, statements showing settlement of the estate, or accounts of sales, there is a total blackout of information about Caroline and her children after 1850, except what has been told to generation after generation of their descendants.

Frank had said that he was young when he, his mother and brother were purchased by Dick Taylor. That particular brother, David, said that he was a little boy who could bring only $750 as a purchase price, while his older brother, Frank, was sold for $825.

A careful examination of the Slave Schedules in 1860 shows that Caroline and her children were not with Taylor at the time the census was taken. At that time he was holding only one mulatto slave, a male of 35 years, which could have been Robert.[26] An examination of James Littlejohn's slave holdings in 1860 show two teen aged females who could be a listing of Fannie and Amanda.[27] Margaret Atkinson, daughter of Thomas B. and heir to the estate

after all debts were paid, was living with her brother James in the 1860 population schedule. She is not listed on the separate Slave Schedule as holding slaves. The other members of the family were not enumerated with John R. Hicks, the trustee.[28] The only other person in the area with whom they could possibly have been was Armistead R. Burwell[29] who not only had business dealings with all of the parties concerned but was the brother-in-law of Richard P. Taylor because they had both married daughters of Thomas W. Norman[30] The Burwell and Taylor plantation were very close to each other and the movement of slaves between the two was easily and often done. Even as late as 1864, A. R. Burwell was still holding eighteen slaves as trustee for Martha (Norman) Taylor.[31] Sixteen mulatto slaves are listed as held by Armistead R. Burwell on the 1860 Slave Schedule. Based on their ages alone, he could have been holding Caroline, and children Frank, Isabella and Alex. Neither David nor Frederick could have been among the listings.

In all probability, the family unit was broken up after Littlejohn wrote his will in 1850, and certainly no later than 1855 when his estate was probably settled. That fact would make it even more incredible that they could find and reunite with each other after gaining their freedom.

Robert

What about Robert, husband of Caroline and father of her children? Who was he and from where did he come? If it is true that at one time during the era of slavery he amassed enough money to help "buy" his children to keep them from being sold to a buyer who would take them out of the county, how did he get (and save) that amount of money? It is known (and recorded) that after the war he bought his own plot of farmland, and apparently paid the prevailing price for it. What sort of personality exhibited such a strong sense of territoriality that this land (which housed and supported his children and grandchildren in a closely knit extended family until the beginning of the 20th century) became known locally by his name, "McGehee-Town"? How (and from whom) did he acquire the sophistication needed to compose a last will and testament which was detailed and precise? Who advised him? From whom did he learn? Was he slave or free?

It has never been as easy to follow the male lines of ancestors who were slaves as it has been to document a female line. Everyone had a known mother even if paternity was often in doubt. Additionally, mothers often kept their very small children with them, while the fathers of those children could be on the same plantation or on an adjourning one. Robert had acknowledged each of his children (and his wife) by name in his will written in 1900, so there was no doubt of the authenticity of the family unit. He and Caroline had to be in the same vicinity by the time they were teenagers and their first child was born. The only solid clue which I had to his identity was his last name and a wealth of oral family history. Although much of this oral history appeared contradictory on the surface, I knew that there would be enough truth buried in it to provide me with the clues I needed to answer my questions.

At each instance, from 1870 through the 1900 Census, Robert's race was designated as "mulatto". This was more a visual description than a category of racial identity. Present day understanding of the word is that it describes a person who had one Negro parent and one white parent. However, the word did not necessarily have that meaning in North Carolina in the 1800's. Spoken and written language has changed greatly in its meaning over time, as living languages always do.

> *". . .during most of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in North Carolina, Indians were entered in the public records as mulattos - sometimes as 'free persons of color'. Genealogists searching for their black or Indian ancestors. . . must interpret the primary records in the light of family and local 'hearsay evidence'. . . in order to analyze correctly the earlier official records. For those tracing their Indian ancestors, such accounts (family tradition) may even constitute the 'best evidence' of the line of descent, since documentary evidence is rare. . .'*[32]

Tradition has it that some of his close, blood relatives were not slaves, but were free men. Tradition would have you believe that he was of mostly American Indian and Irish or Scotch ancestry and that he was free at one time. It is known that Indians in North Carolina were sometimes enslaved[33] and that free persons of color were by some happenstance or the other placed into slavery.[34] Some of his great-grandchildren asserted that the tradition of him being part Indian and free was a true tale, and it survives to this day.

There were many free persons of color in Granville County throughout its history. Their status was generally in

the twilight zone of not really slave nor truly free.[35] Of the total population of 18,817 in Granville County, there were over 1,500 free persons of color enumerated by the 1840 Census, many of whom were living in the households of the white population. When one looks only at the town of Oxford in 1860 one finds households headed by free coloured males by the names of Gray, Gates, Day, Anderson, Hicks, Tabor, Jones, Harris, Hawley, Evans, Curtis, Pettiford, Kersey, Chavis, Tyler, Boon, Bass, Richardson, Cozins, and Richards, to name a few.[36] Yet few records remain as to how these persons became free, if in fact they were ever enslaved.

There were also McGehees who were free persons of color in Wake, Granville, Caswell, and Person Counties in the early through the mid 1800's. Some of them were heads of households while others were single individuals living in households with those of different last names. What is most intriguing is that there seems to be no records in the public domain of the person(s) who had set them free, if indeed they had once been enslaved.

Jupiter MeGehee, free person of color, was head of a family in Granville County in 1820. In 1830 Wake County, one Polly McGee had four free colored persons living in her household; two males and two females. Neither male could be Robert, according to the age range given. There was a household in Person County in 1830 headed by a free person of color by the name of Henry McGehee. He was under 35 years of age but over 24 years. In addition to the head of the household there were three females, one male under 10, and another male over 10 and under 24 years of age.

Yet another free person of color, 38 year old Emily McGehee, was named in the Milton Township area of Caswell County in 1850. Her birthplace, however, was listed as Granville County. In her household the birthplace of two younger McGehee females was Person County, while the youngest member of the household, 3 year old Thomas, was born in Caswell County.[37]

In 1850 there was a head of a household named Henry McGehee, designated as mulatto, in the Tar River District of Granville County. He was listed next to John Howell, a free black man and his family, and near by were other households of free blacks and mulattoes.[38] This Henry McGehee was 30 years old (the original handwriting makes "3s" look like "5s" and vice versa) so could very well have been the older son of the other McGehee who lived in Person County twenty years earlier. Could the younger son in the Person County household in 1830 have been Robert? The year of birth of the younger Henry would be 1820 based on census data, and Robert's year of birth was consistently given as 1824 on subsequent census records.

Granville County itself was very unique in the number of free blacks that it had in relation to the number of whites and the number of slaves. As the following chart shows, in 1850 alone there were 10,383 whites in the County to 10,975 slaves, free blacks and mulattoes. The designation "Indian" was never used on the census reports. It is impossible, using these reports, to determine the size of the Native American population in the country.

1850 - GRANVILLE COUNTY CENSUS - 2,077 Households

DISTRICTS, RACE, and STATUS

District	Slaves	Free Blacks & Mulattoes	Whites	Total Free	Totals
Goshen	973	18	705	723	1696
Abraham Plains	1182	35	550	585	1767
Nutbush	975	58	291	349	1324
Town of Oxford	378	15	279	294	672
Raglands	639	39	626	665	1304
Cedar Creek	265	23	590	613	878
Beaver Dam	336	60	996	1056	1392
Epping Forest	367	22	517	539	906
Henderson Dist	878	36	713	749	1627
Tabscreek	284	115	443	558	842
Fishing Creek	324	50	338	388	712
Fort Creek	462	82	735	817	1279
Dutch	210	40	528	548	778
Ledge of Rock	420	82	705	787	1207
Tar River	625	69	634	703	1328
Knapp of Reeds	223	37	492	529	752
Country Line	355	57	496	553	908
Island Creek	392	25	259	284	676
Oxford District	574	250	486	736	1310
Totals	9862	1113	10383	11476	21358

A thorough examination of the 1850 Census shows no Robert McGehee listed among the many free mulattoes named that year.

On September 7, 1853, one Henry McGehee, a free Negro, was indicted for houseburning in Granville County. On September 8, he was sent to prison to await trial by jury, and later in the day he was found guilty. The sentence was carried out quickly. His punishment was to be stripped naked to the waist to facilitate receiving 39 lashes. He also had to pay all court costs.[39] Since no age of the defendant was given in this record, one cannot be absolutely certain that it was the same Henry McGehee, free person of color, named in the 1850 census, although it seems likely.

There is no record of a household headed by Henry McGehee, free person of color or mulatto listed in the Granville County Census for 1860, nor in Person County, nor in Wake County. Had this Henry McGehee died in the intervening years or merely been overlooked by the census taker? It was not until 1870 that a listing was made of one Henry McGehee, a 70 year old black farmer, living in the Woodsdale area of Person County.

An entry in the Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Granville County reads "...Alfred McGehee, a free boy of colour, aged 7 years, the 1 May 1860, is bound to William Day who enters into bond conditoned as the law directs...". The 1860 census lists a Margaret McGhee, a ten year old mulatto, in the household of James Day, a free black farmer living in the Tar River District. Also in this district, Berea Post Office, two mulatto McGehee children, Sally 14 years old and Alpheus, 6 years old, were living in the household of a family headed by yet another farmer named Day. It appears that these were two orphans who were taken in by relatives. Using Holcomb's *Marriages of Granville County, N.C., 1753-1868* to compare with various census reports shows that some marriages took place between the free families named Day and McGehee. It is reasonable to assume that these free persons of color had been manumitted by someone named McGehee although no specific record was found.

By unearthing this information, I was able to establish that there were free persons of color in the area who used the last name "McGehee", but Robert McGehee, my ancestor, was not named among them. If not free, then he must have been among the thousands of slaves enumerated in the county.

Who were these McGehees? Even the spelling of the name does not give an accurate clue. The names of the early

settlers from Scotland and Ireland were spelled phonetically and most creatively in the early documents: Magee, Megee, Megehee, McGhehee, McGee, etc. Histories and records of these settlements in North Carolina referred to an immigration of Highland Scots and another one of Scotch-Irish. This last vague and controversial term was applied to Lowland Scots who moved to Ulster in Northern Ireland in the 17th century and then to the United States in the 18th century. It was very difficult for these early writers to make a determination by name alone that one belonged to one group or the other.

Granville County was not generally a stopping place for those McGehees who migrated overland from Virginia during the mid-to-late 1700's. Those who migrated South from that state on their way to Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas generally settled a little to the west in the present counties of Person, Caswell, Orange, Chatham, and Wake before moving still further to the south.[40] The river banks of the Hyco, Eno, Haw, Flat, and Tar served as impressive highways through the area during those early days. These early white families of McGehees (if there was more than one family) who did come to the area settled in the southern part of Granville County in the Fort Creek (now Brassfield) District, north in the Rougemont area of Granville County, in upper Person County, and in northern Wake County.[41]

Generally, the early McGehee settlers did not hold slaves. The State Census of North Carolina in 1784-1787 show that neither Ralph McGee nor Charles Megee in Warren County, nor William Magee in Duplin, James McGee in Surry, nor David McGee in Wilkes held slaves. None of the heads of households in Granville County (Mary Megehe, Nathan Megehe Sr. and Jr., Benjamin Megehe Sr. and Jr., Joseph Megehe) held slaves in the early years.[42] These census data, like most of the ones which followed, cannot be considered complete. James McGehee owned land in Granville County in 1760, bought from the Earl of Granville, but by 1774 there was still no evidence that he was a slaveholder.

Perhaps the women of the family married men who held slaves. Each time a lead emerged it evaporated in thin air, such as Jennie McGehee who married Nathaniel Warmouth in 1807 then disappeared from all existing records. Then there was the case of one Benjamin McGehee whose last will and testament of 1808 mentions a wife and fifteen children but no slaves. Most intriguing was the case of Mourning Wormath who married another Benjamin Megehee and neither left a trail to follow.[43]

Even with all of the pieces of the puzzle spread face up the parts could not be made to fit. When it was learned that the McGehees in Virginia were mostly Quakers the enigma of the absence of slaves in the early North Carolina settlers' households was only partially solved. Correspondence with a direct descendant of this family also brought the information that the McGehees who came to Granville and Person Counties in the early to mid 1700's were Highland Scots.

> *"...The original family name was McGregor. The Clan Gregor was outlawed by royal decree in 1603, and under pain of death all men of the name Gregor had to take another surname (many did not). Patrick MacGregor (then Chiefton of the Clan) fought with Montrose in 1644-1645 and was further outlawed. He had two sons, John MacGregor (who changed his name to John Murray, and then later back to John Murray MacGregor when the ban was lifted from the Clan), and James MacGregor, who changed his name to Thomas MackGehee and fled to Virginia. All of the McGehees are descendants of Thomas MackGehee/James MacGregor, who fled from County Argyll, in the west Highlands of Scotland, about where the town of Dalmally is today. James McGehee, who came to Granville County in the early 1700's was grandson of this man...Another grandson, Mumford, settled in Person County..."*[44]

If Robert was born a slave and someone significant to him impressed upon him that he was named McGehee then he was being held slave by:

(1) a son of one of the earlier settlers just mentioned (In Person County Mumford, and especially his son Thomas, became large slaveholders.)
(2) someone for whom that was a maiden name
(3) or, he had come to Granville County from some other place, perhaps a neighboring county.

If Robert was not a member of the households of free persons of color in Person or Granville Counties, but was rather the mulatto aged 25 years in 1850 and aged 35 in the 1860 slave schedule, from whom and where did he come? To find evidence of a slave named Robert would require a closer examination of all slaveholders who had dealings with Caroline's master, and there were many. But the most logical place to begin searching for Robert was with Caroline under the control of Thomas B. Littlejohn. Without finding the inventory of his estate there were no means by which

to determine if Robert was there or on another plantation. In addition to the slaves named in the Deed of Trust the names of a few others were found in various documents. Two slaves, 18 years old Dave and 13 years old George, had been bought by Thomas Littlejohn at the sale of his father's estate in the Durant's Neck section of Perquimas County in 1818. Another document showed that he acquired Clary and Roday in 1812. In yet another instance (Fi Fa, 1843) he lost control of slave children Frances and Joseph.

During this era many men acquired property through their wives. Littlejohn's wife, Elizabeth received eight slaves that her father, Thomas Mutter, had willed to her at the beginning of the 19th century. They were: Billy, Lucy and three children (Nancy, Lucinda, Harriet), Nancy and her son Joe, and slave Patt. Elizabeth Littlejohn's mother, also named Elizabeth, received twelve slaves as a results of this same will. They were: Daniel, York, Sam, Joe, Essex, Hannah, Dicy and her four children, Robin, Sarah, Lawson, and Patsy. The will stated that upon her remarriage, her slaves were to be divided among her children. The widow, Elizabeth Mutter, did marry again, to one George Alston.

Beginning in 1817, Elizabeth Moore Mutter Alston began giving away her slaves to her grandchildren, almost all of whom were the children of Thomas B. Littlejohn.

1817	boy Washington, 8 years old, (son of Hannah)
	girl Lucy, 10 years old, (daughter of Hannah)
1818	man Robin, 21 years old (son of Dicy)
1820	girl Dianna, (no age given)
	boy Edmund, 11 years old
	girl Mary, (no age given)
	girl Jinney, 15 years old
	boy Mark, 7 years old
1822	woman Sarah, 21 years old (daughter of Dicey) and her child, Zachariah, 1 year, and 7 months old
1827	man Lawson, 22 years old (son of Dicey)
1828	Patsy and her child (no name or ages given. Patsy is probably Dicey's daughter)
1835	George, 25 years old (some indication that he was sent to Tennessee)
1839	boy Shepard, 16 years old.[45]

No where among the extant records has documentation been found that Thomas B. Littlejohn held a slave at any time by the name of Robert. There is no doubt that any one among the several female slaves that he held could have been Robert's mother. With the estate inventory missing from public records there was no way to show that he was or was not in the same household as Caroline. After exhausting all possible leads of the obvious approach that Robert and Caroline were on the same plantation, it was decided to take the search in yet another direction.

There is no doubt that Caroline was a slave and true to the policy of that day, children were of the same status (slave or free) as their mother. At least two of the children, Frank and David, asserted that when the war ended, they were being held in slavery by Dick Taylor.

No slave by the name of Robert was mentioned either in the last will and testament nor the estate inventory of Richard P. Taylor's father (Robert); therefore, he was not inherited.[46] Another principle way of acquiring slaves was through the wife's dowry or inheritance, as has been previously stated. From an examination of the will and inventory of Thomas W. Norman, father of Richard's wife Martha, it is clear that Robert was not acquired in this manner.[47] The available, extant bills of sale, Fi Fa's, auctioneer's returns and the like, were all examined without a clue as to when, or if, Robert came to live on the plantation of Richard P. Taylor.

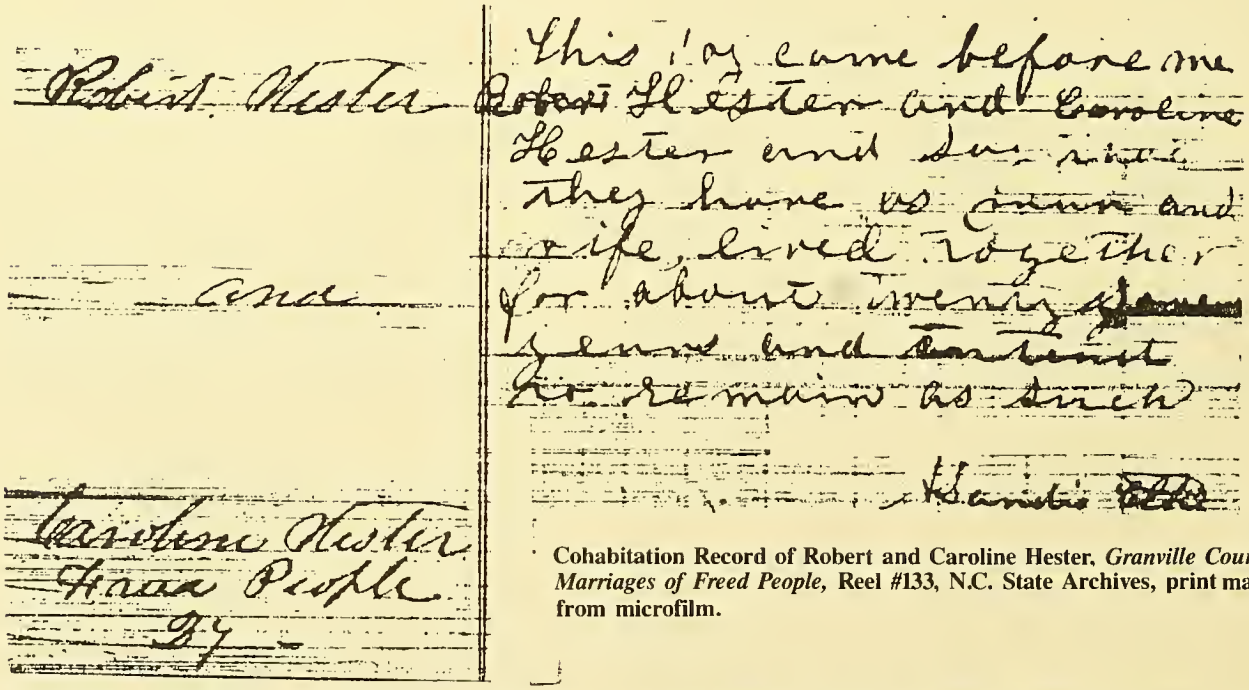
At the time that the oldest child, Frank, was interviewed in 1939, Frank was quite old and doubtless his memroy had faded some with time. The trauma and stark fear of separation was certainly a severe enough act to etch the event of being sold at public auction on the courthouse steps forever in his mind. Perhaps he did believe that his father was "owned" by Dick Taylor. A young boy would not know if this father was rather bound into service or hired out to Dick Taylor as a field hand from some other planter. Slaves were often hired out for years away from their home plantation. There was no end to the imaginative ways in which slaves were transferred from one person to the other. It still stretches the imagination, as Frank relates in the next chapter of this work, that a slave could amass and save enough money to help buy his wife and children to keep them from leaving the county.

At the beginning of this tale I indicated that my ancestors would be found among persons considered the property of slaveholders named Hicks, Littlejohn, Burwell, Norman, Cogwell, Hester, Taylor, and someone named McGehee. This was not a random assumption, but one based not only on oral history but also on the available public documents found in various public depositories. All of the above named slaveholders had many business dealings with each other,

including the transfer and selling of slaves. Some of their plantation holdings were in the same general area of each other, which could also make the movement of slaves easily and often done. Even though Robert and Caroline are clearly using the surname of McGehee by the time of the 1870 Census, could they have possibly been using another surname during the period of time between 1865-1870?

One of the first tasks of this search was to thoroughly examine the microfilmed copies of records containing *Marriages of Freed People* for Granville County. Although there is no way to be absolutely sure that all former slaves obeyed the law by reporting their marital status during the years 1866-1868, the extant listing of over 1,500 former slave couples who did report in Granville County woud lead one to the conclusion that most of them did. There are differences in opinions as to the process former slaves used to select a last name once they were freed. They could have used the name of the last slaveholder or some former one. Those who had been handled by excessively cruel masters were prone to make up names because they wanted no reminder of their former condition. What is known about Robert makes this last process highly unlikely. In addition to Fannie Littlejohn and Lee Pool (which will be discussed in a following chapter) the following declaration was found.

> *"This day come before me Robert Hester and Caroline Hester and say that they have as man and wife, lived together for about twenty-seven years and intend to remain as such.*
>
> A. Landis, Clerk"



Cohabitation Record of Robert and Caroline Hester, *Granville County Marriages of Freed People*, Reel #133, N.C. State Archives, print made from microfilm.

The name, "Caroline", was very popular during the period of slavery under discussion. Nearly a dozen records containing that name were studied and discarded because the "Caroline" named did not fit the age nor the location of the one which I was following. The name "Robert" or "Bob", although not as common as the name Caroline, was also occassionally seen in various documents. This document, from the *Marriages of Freed People*, fits the given names, the location, and the number of years lived as husband and wife of the Robert and Caroline for which I was looking. No one alive at the time this research was done had ever heard of Robert and Caroline using the surname of Hester, however briefly.

If they were not on the same plantation, they had to have been living on adjacent ones from 1840 onward. Thomas Littlejohn had dealings with just about everyone in the county, however, a Hester connection had to be found.

The following excerpt from an ancient deed appeared to be a substantial clue, yet another one which ended without an answer.

> *"Benjamin Hester of Rutherford County, Tennessee, deed to Thomas B. Littlejohn of Granville County, for all of his right in the estate of his father, William Hester, deceased, as per his will."* (November 9, 1820; Deed Book Z. p. 155)

A later entry (p. 212) in the same deed book:

> *"John Hester to Thomas B. Littlejohn,. . .all right in estate of his father, William Hester, deceased, as per will"* (Feb., 1821)

What is really confusing about this information is that the William Hester who died around 1820, died intestate without a will. His wife Barsheba (Norman) asked the court for a widow's dower to be laid off and named only five children; Abraham, William, John Henry, Polley and Betsey. None of these documents describes the estate property which was being deeded to Thomas B. Littlejohn, and the will and estate inventory of this William Hester did not list slaves as part of his property.[48] It is quite possible that there were two different men, both named William Hester, who both died around 1820. As in many of the families during that period of time, the given names were repeated for relatives resulting in many Benjamins, Johns, Williams, etc.

A great granddaughter of Caroline and Robert McGehee related a story told to her by her mother... "Ole white Massa 'Muke' made 'em get married. He caught Bob and Caroline living together and told them they couldn't do that unless they got married. Massa 'Muke' made them have a ceremony. What kind of ceremony I don't know."

'Muke' is obviously a nick-name, although one Muke Hester is listed in the *North Carolina Business Directory* (Branson's) as a prominent farmer in Oxford Township in 1869. The only name which sounded close to this was one Memucan H. Hester who lived in the Henderson District with his wife, Mary A., in 1850. At 29 years of age, he was only about three years older than Robert McGehee. By 1860 he lived in the Ragland District with F. B. Hester, and by 1863 he and one F. Hester owned 1,745 acres of land and held 60 slaves. A closer examination of the records show that both Franklin B. Hester and "Muke" Hester had moved from where they had lived separately in 1850 to the plantation of James Cooper, father of Mary A. Hester, Muke's wife. Could Robert be among the holdings of James Cooper? An examination of the 1850 Slave Schedule revealed that among the many slaves that he held at that time, no one fit the description of Robert.

It is believed that Bennet Hester was the father of Franklin B. and Memucan H. Hester, although it cannot be proven absolutely. The Slave Schedule of Bennet Hester for 1850 does show one male slave of an age and description which could be Bob even though the age given on the schedule is two years younger than Bob was supposed to have been.

Family tradition has followed the generations that Robert had a brother named Abram, or Abraham Hester (see Chapter XI for details). They had been separated from each other when they were very young. If this were true, to locate them when they were still young children would also locate their mother and permit the search for kith and kin to progress from the guagmire in which it had languished for so long.

There was also somebody by the name of Isham who was somehow connected with either Bob or Caroline during their early years. Tales are still told of his ability to run away and return home at will. During the years of slavery, the bloodhounds would chase him but were never able to catch him. Somehow Caroline would know when Isham was on his way home from one of his escapades and would have his dinner cooked and waiting for his return. It is said of Isham that he had supernatural powers. He could defy the laws of gravity by walking around the very edge of a building, sure-footedly, without any fear of falling off. Another trick he used was to take a stick and draw in the dirt a wide circle around himself that, try as they might, neither man or beast could penetrate the invisible wall he had placed between himself and them.

Several different branches of the family have heard of Abram and Isham so the tales told by the former slaves to their children and grand children were amazingly consistent. There are records which show Abram using the surname of Hester after freedom, but there are no post-war records of Isham.

Another William Hester (wife, Mary Fraizer) died in 1817 and any one of the females among the twenty-one slaves named in that inventory could have been the mother of Robert and Abram. All of the slaves named were rented or hired out for many years before a final estate division was made. In 1828, Thomas B. Littlejohn was appointed to sell nine of the slaves which had belonged to the widow. Yet another William Hester, whose land was adjacent to that of Thomas B. Littlejohn, died in 1838. There was yet another William who was heir to that estate. The estate was not finally settled until 1845 after the slaves had been hired out for many years. The one slave named Robert among his holdings was not the one for which I was searching. Benjamin Hester, whose slaves were hired out for many years after his death in 1838, listed two different slaves by the name of Robert, with neither proving, even remotely, to be Robert McGehee. Abraham Hester bought a slave named Bob from the estate of George Norman in 1835, but he was too old to be the one for whom this search was made. Throughout this search for the Hester connection, another slaveholder by the name of David I. Young surfaced and resurfaced so that the search expanded, complicated by the fact that many of the slaveholders named had living with them free persons of color, unnamed. None of them were known to be married to or to have any business dealings with a slaveholder named McGehee.[49]

In the final analysis, no public documents were uncovered to show that Robert McGehee was on any of the previously named plantations with the possible exception of Richard P. Taylor, as an enumeration on the 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules or with Bennet Hester, enumerated in 1850. Therefore, these questions remain:

1. If he had been held slave by Richard P. Taylor, why didn't he use the name of Taylor when he had the choice to do so?
2. If the Robert Hester named in the records of *Marriages of Freed People* was the same person as Robert McGehee, which Hester held him slave? Did the officials who took the marriage deposition instruct the newly freed people what surname they should use? Two of his grandchildren were in their nineties and one nearly so — all clear of mind — when this was being written and none recalled Granddaddy Bob using the name of Hester.
3. Oral history states that he "went back" to the name "McGehee" when the choice was his to make. Went back from which name, and why?

Public records which would answer these questions are not complete and records held in private hands are just that, private.

Records of Robert McGehee's movements soon after freedom are available. The Burwell name comes into focus again. In all probability he was hired as a farm hand by Armistead R. Burwell and could have been known by other members of his family long before that time. It has been documented in many sources that some of the newly freed persons moved from the place of their last bondage, seeking a more hospitable locality. Even during the era of slavery, Armistead Burwell hired many free persons of color.

The entire Burwell family was a most unusual one. Armistead's father, Spotswood, owned plantations in Virginia as well as North Carolina. Other family members lived in Alabama and Georgia. Although they held slaves, many free persons of color, along with their families, worked for them in North Carolina. The tobacco crops that these free families grew were sold as far away as Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia at the same time as the Burwell crops. Within the context of the time and the institution of slavery they were quite unusual in the care and attention they demonstrated toward the slaves who worked for them. The physicians who cared for family members were also called upon and paid to administer to the slaves. When they hired out slaves to other planters, the contracts they insisted upon were written in detail to include providing the slave in question with a suit of yarn clothes for winter, a suit of summer clothes, a pair of double sole shoes, hat and blanket, not to be worked in bad weather, and to be well attended to in sickness.[50]

When the mother of the family, Mary, was in Virginia her messages of love to her servants, some of whom were in North Carolina, were sent in letters her sons wrote to each other. She also would wrap little gifts to send to them. The slave couple, Ben and Aggy, were mentioned particularly with affection. Although slave families were sometimes separated and placed in different family members' households, they were seldom, if ever, sold to outsiders. It was not unusual, when seeing that a particular slave husband on an adjourning plantation was being sold away from the area, for one Burwell or the other to make arrangements for him to stay.[51]

One son, Lewis, was living in Rome, Georgia when his parents died. After accepting the loss his major concern seemed to be for the welfare of the slaves. Before the eventual estate settlement and before his share of slaves were sent to him in Georgia, his letters expressed anguish at the thought of their being cold, or hungry, or suffering for anything. My strongest clue that my ancestor Robert was somehow in some way with a member of this family was Lewis' 1856 letter to his brother William in which he advised him to "hire Bob the Negro" until an equitable division of their parents' estate could be completed.[52]

Well into the 1860's, the name of Robert, identified as a Negro, was mentioned in various documents which were related to working with farm crops. Specifically, in 1865 farm hands by the names of DAVID, ABRAHAM, and ROBERT were mentioned in relation to corn crops, and farm hands, ABRAHAM, DAVID and ROBERT were mentioned in relation to crops of fodder.[53]

The investigation for Robert and his ancestors appeared to have reached a point where no further inroads would be made at the time. It would not have been surprising if he, any brothers and sisters and his mother had been found due to the careful, detailed search which had been made. What is surprising is that nothing was found. Nothing. For now, the remainder of the story would have to be told by his many descendants.

Over one hundred years have passed and the only slaveholder remembered and spoken of by name was that of Richard P. Taylor. Ninety-six year old Freddie, Fed's daughter had heard tales of him, and ninety-one year old Rosa, David's daughter had heard tales of him. At least some of Robert's children were with him during their early lives. Whether he had a legal claim to them, or they were loaned or hired out to him cannot be answered from reading the available public documents.

The dual or split personalities which many slaveholders had was most evident in Dick Taylor. This slaveholder had a most ungodly reputation as the meanest of the mean and the cruelest of the cruel by those who came under his capricious rule. Yet he worshiped with the black folk and taught Sunday School in their church each and every Sunday until his death. Their little church was established and built on his plantation, and in his will, written 29 June 1870, he made sure that they could worship there on the 10-15 acres he set aside forever. ". . . I give and devise to . . . , colored men, to them and their heirs the following parcel of land upon which is . . . a house of worship, near to Salem Church, and bounded as follows, beginning at the road leading from Oxford to Williamsboro. . . in special trust for the religious society, a church now organized and worshiping in said house of worship and known as Zion Church. . ."[54] It is said that during his worship there he entreated the Lord to forgive him his sins as he acclaimed to all who could hear how unworthy he was.

Tombstones in that church's graveyard date from 1870. Many of the older Hicks (in-laws to four of the McGhee children) are buried there in Salem Township.

The old and the new: Big Zion A.M.E. Zion Church. Built about 1870, rebuilt 1972

None of his grandchildren who were alive in the 1980's could remember if they had ever heard that Robert had other brothers or sisters. It is highly likely that he did. They remembered that some of his folks went to Ohio and others to Alabama. Nor could they remember who Robert's father or mother were said to be. He was described as being of medium height with dark, reddish brown skin. More than one person said that he had Indian blood; how much or from which source cannot now be determined with any degree of accuracy. Whoever he was and from wherever he came, he was a man with a keen sense of who he was and of family. Despite the norm of separating families that was practiced during that time, Robert always somehow managed to keep his family nearby or to bring them back if they left.

Just a few short years after the war, Robert was farming successfully and apparently saving his money. When his name first appeared in the 1870 Census, he is using the last name of McGehee. The census taker described him as mulatto even though it is known that this designation was based upon how the person looked to the enumerator at the time rather than on factual information. He was something of a man of means by that time with the listing of a value of $150 for his personal property. Three of the older children, Frank, Fannie and Amanda had married and started families of thier own. Isabella had married Ike Hicks in 1870, and was living next door. Only David and the younger children were still at home.[55] All were worshiping at the Huntsville Baptist Church.[56]

If one could place oneself in a time warp and return to that era over one hundred years ago, it would seem reasonable and inevitable that the children would marry who they did. The area was remote and rural, with great distances between neighbors which were traveled sometimes by horseback or buggy, but mostly on foot. One of the closest neighbors, still some miles away, was the family of Charlie Hicks, his wife, Phillis, and their many children. It was inevitable that the children in these two families would find each other. Four of the Hicks' children married four of the McGehee's children; Frank, Isabella, Frederick and Mollie. The other children married into families who lived in Oxford Township, except for Amanda. It is still not known for certain how Amanda came to be living in Johnston County in 1870.

Fillis (Phyllis) Hicks
ca 1870
Mother of Issac, Ida, Fannie, and Otis Hicks
who married Isabella, Frank, Fed, and Mollie McGhee

By 1880 Robert had bought his own farm, which had been sold to him that year by Bettie K. Burwell (Elizabeth Norman) widow of Armistead R. Burwell.[57] Rosa, a daughter younger than Alex but older than Thomas as named in the 1870 Census is apparently now dead. The Agricultural Schedule for 1880 revealed that Robert owned a farm of 55 acres; "20 acres of woodland and 35 acres of tilled land. The farm machinery was evaluated at $5.00, livestock $55, fences and other buildings $5, and the estimated value of all of the farm was $330." The prior year, 1879, he had "hired 2 colored laborers, paid wages of $5, and spent $20 on fertilizer. On the farm were 2 milch cows with 4 others, one of which had been slaughtered. Twenty-five pounds of butter had been made in 1879. Twelve dozen eggs had been produced and 10 swine were in evidence. As for other farm produce, 20 acres of Indian corn had produced 125 buschels, 7 acres of oats produced 15 buschels, 3 acres of wheat - 4 buschels, and four acres of tobacco had produced 2,000 pounds."[58]

All of his sons farmed with him except Frank, and David who was renting a 21 acre farm nearby for a share of the profit.[59]

The family grew and prospered while Caroline and Robert grew old together. They lived in a weatherboard-over-logs house with an upstairs and a downstairs, and a kitchen reached through a hall-like breezeway. Nearby was a stream of water with a dam at one end. Because they all live near each other and owned their land the area became known as "McGehee-Town".

The extended family was sufficient unto itself. They would have wood cuttings, corn shuckings, quilting bees and apple bees. The women would gather at each others' houses and help each other quilt or peel apples while the men would gather and cut enough wood in one day to last the winter. This procedure would be repeated in the spring with enough wood split to cook the meals and can the summer harvest. All of the second generation learned to read, write, and figure.[60]

Everywhere in the neighborhood, Robert McGehee could be seen riding his white horse. The children knew him as somewhat of a tease. His granddaughter, Freddie, remembers the grandchildren raiding his apple orchard before the apples were ripe and Graddaddy Bob running them away, but making sure he never caught up with them. The 1900 Census lists Robert and Caroline as having been married for 59 years. Freddie remembers that he died when she was about eleven years old, which would place his death around 1902-3.

He was knowledgeable enough to make his wishes known for the disposition of his property at his death, by making a legal will on April 2, 1900. He willed that after Caroline's death, his property would descend to his nine children whom he then named; "Fannie Pool, Amanda Faison, Frank McGhee, David McGhee, Isabella Hicks, Fred McGhee, Alex McGhee, Thomas McGhee and Mollie Hicks". For the first time the first "e" in the surname was dropped. The will was recorded on 30 April, 1912. (See Appendix A). On 4 May 1912, Frank, Fanny, "Mandy", David and Isabella, conveyed their right to share in the farm to Alex, Fred, Thomas, and Mollie. This deed shows that Fanny, Mandy, and Isabella were all widows. (The foregoing spelling of names is as it is on the original documents.)

Although David was named as sole executor, it was Fred who brought the will in and had it recorded on 20 April 1912. In all probability David was at that time out of the state seeing doctors about his terminal illness. It is safe to assume that the will was brought forth at Caroline's death which would place her death in 1912.

Granddaughters Rosa (daughter of David) and Freddie (daughter of Fred) both in their 90's when this was written, were consistent in their descriptions of Caroline even though these two had not talked to each other in many years and lived many miles apart from each other. Caroline was described as very fair of complexion, with blue eyes, and hair that reached beyond the small of her back.

Ruth Hicks Payne (related to the Hicks but not to the McGhees) gave words to accompany the visual image she had of Caroline. As a girl she remembers seeing Caroline going from her home in the Huntsville Community (now called Kinton Forks and where some members of the extended family still live) to downtown Oxford, walking with her feet bare and her shoes thrown over her shoulder with the tied shoe laces forming a bridge holding them together, intent on her destination and oblivious to her surroundings.

Robert's and Caroline's children were members of the last intact generation to remain on and to subsist from only the land. Most farmed at first by renting or sharing in the crop profits or farming on the small parcels their father left them. Some of Robert's and Caroline's children and grandchildren later bought their own farms in the surrounding area in Oxford Township. Others made their livelihoods in the construction and other trades. Still others sought out various professions which required years of formal education. With few exceptions the generations after the turn of the century moved away from the land.

Those who loved the land and chose to stay and eke out a living through the inevitable gamble of farming most often met the typical destiny of black farmers owning small farms during the present century. Expensive machinery took its place in this labor intensive occupation and few small Black farmers had the money to buy the necessary equipment without the accompanying high interest mortgages which banks generally would not provide them anyway. Lack of knowledge about taxes, manipulations by shysters, suspicious fires, mortgaging the land during times of financial emergencies, all played a role in having the land taxed, taken, stolen, and frittered away. The national depression of the 1930's provided the final cupe de grace which ended farming as the main occupation for Caroline's and Robert's descendants. Many left the land to seek their fortunes and futures in the large cities of the North.

The temptation was great to indicate individually each doctor, lawyer, judge, teacher, preacher, professor, craftsman or whatever, of Caroline's and Robert's descendants, but with a family this large someone's title would be omitted for sure. My solution was to specify none, except in a general way, about their children and some of their grandchildren. It's enough to say that the people who are recorded on these pages are engaged in every imaginable occupation from the most humble to high offices of the U.S. Government.

CHAPTER I - NOTES and SOURCES

1. So many authors have written about the phenomenon of separating slave families that it is difficult to cite specific ones. The authorities for citing the particular practices noted here were readings of court minutes and estate papers, along with the private correspondence of various slaveholders. Also helpful was Guion Johnson, pp. 534-538.

2. N.C. State Archives, *Attachments and Leavies on Slaves*. Fi Fa is an abbreviation for the Latin term "Fieri Facias", which was a writ of execution commanding the sheriff to levy upon the goods of a judgment debtor for the collection of the amount due. These writs were withdrawn if the money owed was repaid before the sale of the slave(s). These writs could be passed from one slaveholder to another. It was not unusual for several Fi Fas to be issued to the same debtor, against one slave, with the money derived from the sale of the slave being divided in several portions.

3. N.C. State Archives. *Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions*: also, *Minutes of the Superior Court of Granville County*, 1820-1865.

4. Granville County Will Books, #3-20 (microfilmed).

5. J.R.B. Hathaway. *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol I, #2, April 1900, pp. 268-283.

6. Ibid.

7. U.S. Population Census, 1820, N.C. Granville County, Ragland District.

8. U.S. Population Census, 1830, N.C., Granville County, p. 28.

9. U.S. Population Census, 1840, N.C., Granville County, pp. 143 & 151.

10. N.C.State Archives, Granville County. *Miscellaneous Records of Slaves and Free Persons of Color.*

11. Warren County Will Book, #43, p. 185. This will, written in October 1850 with codicils added in November 1850 and September 1852, was witnessed by A. Landis and James Wiggins. Named as executors were his son, James T. Littlejohn with Robert B. Gillam and James Wiggins.

12. Granville County Deed Book #10, p. 85. Both Thomas B. Littlejohn and John R. Hicks signed the Deed of Trust, and it was witnessed by James T. Littlejohn.

13. Ibid.

14. With the knowledge that Franky was Caroline's mother, I was able to locate her in the 1870 Census living in Oxford Township in dwelling #215. She was 75 years old, which would place her year of birth circa 1795. Although she was using the surname of Littlejohn, two of those in her household were named Julia Potter (20 yrs.) and Henry Wilson (18 yrs.) with no indication of their relationship to her. In the next dwelling were more Potters and David Clark (29 yrs.), a blacksmith. Although the 1870 Census does not reveal the relationships to each other of those in the same household, and is notoriously inaccurate in listing correct ages, the last names of those around her provided additional clues as to Franky's life while she was held slave.

    There is strong evidence that Franky changed slaveholders more than once after she left Littlejohn's. The transcript of a civil action brought before the court in 1849 concerning the selling of a defective slave graphically describes the life of one female slave named Franky.

    It would appear that she was at one time held by a man named Wilson, yet after his death, the division of property does not show to whom she was transferred. The defendant and the plaintiff in the suit were

both Wilson's sons-in-law. The Superior Court testimony describes her normal work as plowing the fields. At least once, while pregnant, she worked pulling fodder for an hour and a half in the rain. Not long after this event she gave birth to a stillborn child in a barn. She had two young children at the time, a boy and a girl, and the boy's name was David.

There is also strong evidence that Franky was at one time held by a slaveholder named Clark. At some time she had at least two more children; Amanda, and Julia. Could the Julia Potter living with her in 1870 be her daughter?

15. N.C. State Archives, *Miscellaneous Newspapers, Oxford, N.C. 1834-1865*, (Microfilmed, broken series).

16. N.C. State Archives, Granville County Deed Books, #10-21 (microfilmed).

17. N.C. State Archives, Granville County Estate Papers, Robert B. Hicks.

18. N.C. State Archives, Granville County Deed Books #16, 17, and 19 (microfilmed).

19. N.C. State Archives, *Attachments and Leavies on Slaves*, Granville County. See also Exhibit B. there is a strong possibility that the Joseph involved in this transaction is the same Joe Littlejohn who died in 1918 in Franklin County at eighty years of age.

20. U.S. Census, 1850, N.C. Slave Schedules, Granville County Oxford District.

21. Ibid.

22. U.S. Census, 1850, N.C. Slave Schedules, Granville Co., Ragland District.

23. N.C. State Archives, Warren County, *Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions*, 1854-1857.

24. Ibid.

25. N.C. State Archives, *Minutes of the Granville County Superior Court*, 1840-1855.

26. U.S. Census, 1860, N.C. Slave Schedules, Granville County, Ragland District.

27. Ibid. Town of Oxford.

28. Ibid. Henderson District.

29. Ibid. Oxford District.

30. B. Halcomb. *Marriages of Granville County, N.C.*, 1753-1868.

31. This information was taken from the original county tax lists for the year of 1864. Other tax lists were used to support the data gleaned from the Slave Schedules.

32. Leary & Stirewalt, Eds. *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History*, pp. 49-50.

33. Hohn Hope Franklin. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans*, 5th ed., pp. 34-35.

34. John Hope Franklin. *The Free Negro in North Carolina*, 1790-1860, pp. 53-57.

35. Ibid. See also Nannie M. Tilley, *Studies in the History of Colonial Granville County.*

36. U.S. Population Census, 1840, N.C. Granville County, pp. 149-156, and 1860, N.C., Granville County, Oxford District.

37. U.S. Population Census, N.C., 1820, Granville County, p. 45; 1830, Person County (no page listed); 1830, Wake County, p. 495; 1850, Caswell County, p. 260.

38. U.S. Population Census, 1850, N.C., Granville County, Tar River District, pp. 160-161.

39. N.C. State Archives, *Minutes of the Granville County Superior Court*, 1853.

40. Leary & Stirewalt, Eds. *North Carolna Research: Genealogy and Local History*, p. 33.

41. Worth S. Ray, *Colonial Granville County and Its People*, p. 298.

42. A. Kenan Register, *State Census of North Carolina, 1784-1787.*

43. B. Holcomb, *Marriages of Granville County, North Carolina, 1753-1868.* Many leads other than the ones cited were followed, but the ones noted were followed longer than others because the names used are still in the family to this day.

44. G.R. McGhee, Jr. Personal communications, October-November, 1984. Among the many references he cited were: Browning, C.H. (Philadelphia, 1900) *Some Colonial Dames of Royal Descent*, pp. 283-284., and Virkus, F.A. (A.N. Marquis, 1925) *The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy*, Vol. 1, p. 771. Descendants of this family also settled in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.

45. Granville County Deed Books; X, Z, 1, 3, 4, 6, 10.

46. Granville County Will Book #16, p. 127.

47. Granville County Will Book #19, pp. 199-201.

48. In addition to the deeds referred to, see also *Granville County Will Book #9*; p. 43, p. 159, pp. 203-204.

49. Estate Papers, N.C. State Archives, Granville County. Also B. Holcomb, *Marriages of Granville County, North Carolina 1753-1868.*

50. From the *Burwell Family Papers, #112*, in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

51. Ibid.

52. Ibid. The humanitarian treatment slaves received while in the care of this family is in stark contrast to the treatment which Franky received after leaving Littlejohn's. In that case, she was used up and then thrown away.

    The following nine slaves were sent to Lewis Burwell in Georgia as his share in the estate of his deceased parents:

    Old Amy (1797)
    Andrew Jackson (1831, son of Old Amy)
    Martha Burton (1845, daughter of Nancy 1819)
    Matilda (1850)
    Martha (1821, daughter of Fanny 1798)
      and these four children of Martha
      Richard, (1837)
      Osbourn (1839)
      Francis (1840)
      Kitty (1841)

53. Ibid.

54. Granville County Will Book #23, pp. 24-28. This is still an active church. It was at this church that Charlie Hicks, his wife Phillis, and their children worshipped. The graveyard adjacent to the church has several tombstones dating back to 1870.

55. U.S. Population Census, 1870, N.C. Granville County, Oxford Township, p. 58.

56. It was not unusual for slaves and slaveholders to attend church services together in Granville County. In the early 1800's the inhabitants of this area attended the old Hester's Baptist Church. Around 1832 the slaves removed themselves from Hester's Church and began to worship on the site of the present Huntsville Baptist Church. In the beginning they worshipped under a bush-harbor. This was a shelter made by staking four sturdy tree trunks in the ground to make the four corners of an area which was later roofed by placing cut bushes and leafy tree limbs over it for shade. This was eventually replaced by a log structure, then a third church made of wood was torn down when the congregation outgrew it. The present, brick structure of Huntsville Baptist Church has stood since the early 1920's.

57. Granville County Deed Book #33, p. 335. See also Appendix A.

58. Agricultural Schedule of the U.S. Census, 1880, N.C. Granville County, Oxford Township, S.D. 2, E.D. 107., pp. 21-23.

59. Ibid.

60. Several of the older ones spoke specifically of the "Yankee Ladies" who came into town to teach the newly freed people. Mrs. Sarah A. Bond, among others, opened schools shortly after the war and remained there to teach well into the 1870's. (*L. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1872*, p. 106. See also U.S. Population Census, 1870, N.C., Granville County, p. 17.)

The positive influence on this family of the location of Mary Potter School in Oxford cannot be over estimated. Began in 1889 as an outgrowth of Timothy Darling Presbyterian Church, it was owned and governed by the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedmen. Its first students ranged in ages from five to forty-five, all anxious to learn. A large majority of its population were day pupils even though it became a boarding school in 1892 to accommodate pupils who had to travel over the poor roads at that time. Until 1936 it was the only high school for Blacks in Granville County and before its demise when public schools became racially integrated, it drew black students from all over the country seeking a quality education.

It was state accredited in 1922 and accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges in 1934. From the early 1930's its faculty were graduates of Lincoln University, J.C. Smith, Shaw, Virignia Union, Hampton, Winston-Salem T.C., Atlanta Universities, and the University of Pennsylvania. This school in this community had the profound effect upon this family (and others like it) of making education readily available and taken as a matter of course. (Owena Hunter Davis. *A History of Mary Potter School.*)

Danville Va Decr 29th 1815. Received
of Thomas B. Littlejohn Esqr the sum of
Four hundred and twenty five dollars
in full for the purchase of a negro woman
named Franky, who was sold to him, a
few weeks since by my agent Mr James
T. Littlejohn. And I do hereby bind my
self, my heirs &c to warrant and defend
a good and legal title to said negro
woman Franky. to him the abovenamed
Thomas B. Littlejohn his heirs and
assigns, against the claim or claims
of all persons whomsoever.

Witness my hand and seal this
Day above written

Thomas P. Atkinson (L.S.)

Teste
Roger Atkinson

Exhibit A
N.C. State Archives, *Bill of Sale for Slaves and Personal Property, Granville County.* Copy of receipt dated December 29, 1815, from Thomas Atkinson to Thomas B. Littlejohn for the Woman Franky.

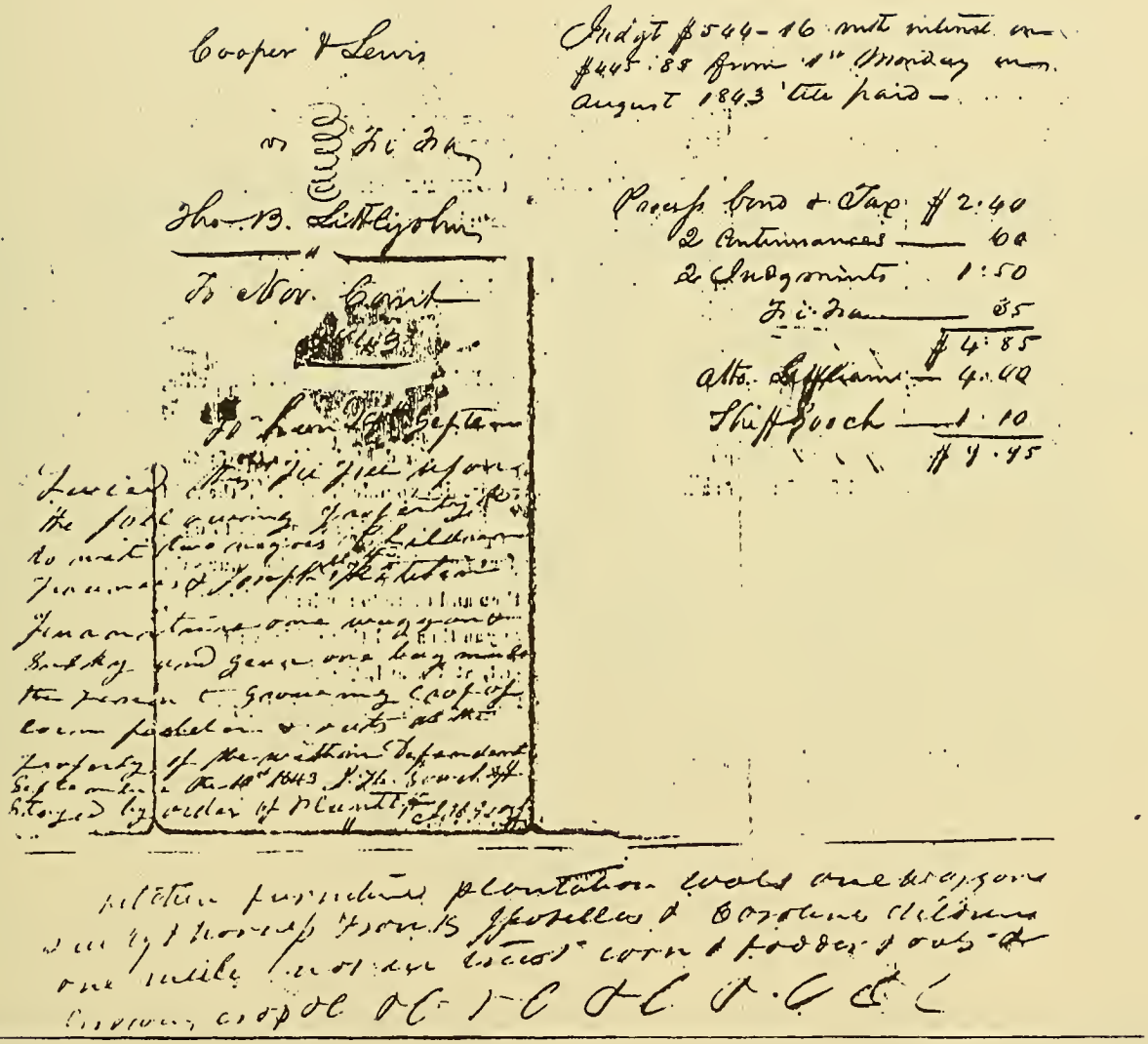
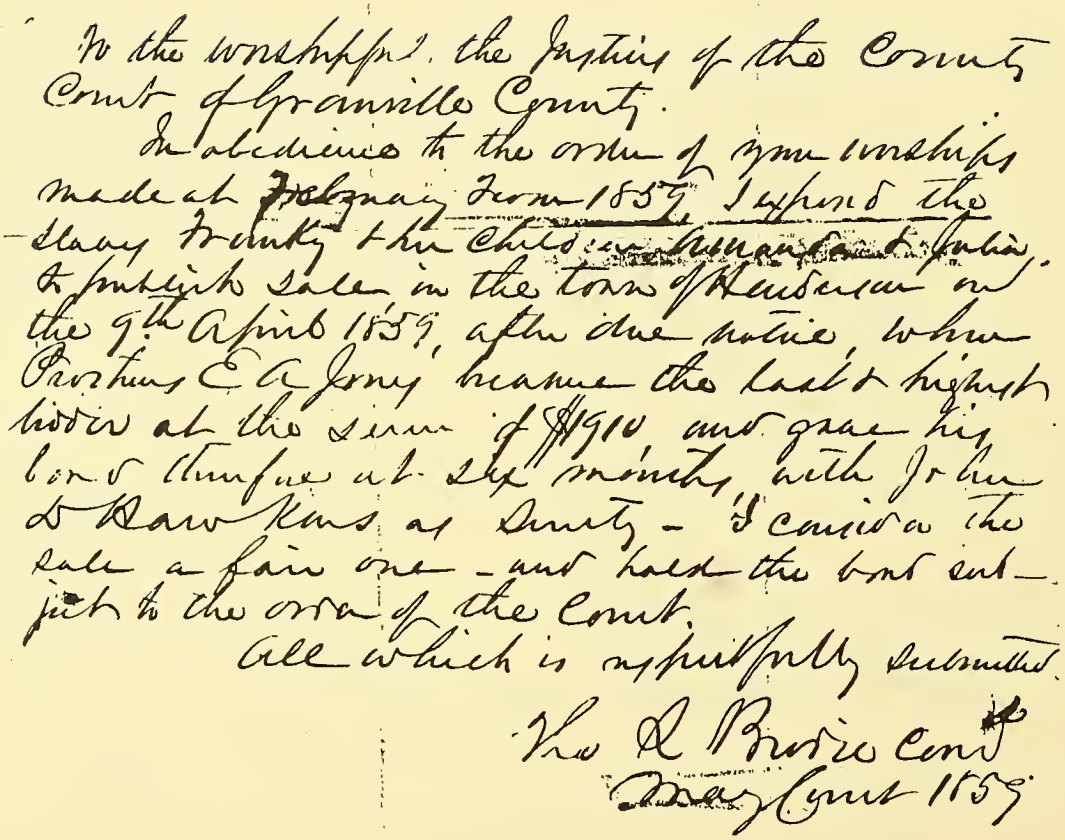


Exhibit B

N.C. State Archives. *Attachments and Levies on Slaves, Granville County.*

This copy of a Fi Fa is only one of several concerning the same two slaves, "Children Frances and Joseph". Under this document is a copy of an unattached note which reads (punctuation added for readability) "Kitchen furniture, plantation tools, one waggon, sulky & harness, *Franky's, Isabella's & Caroline's children,* one mule, *not in trust,* corn and fodder & oats & growing crop". (1843)



To the worshipful the Justices of the County Court of Granville County.

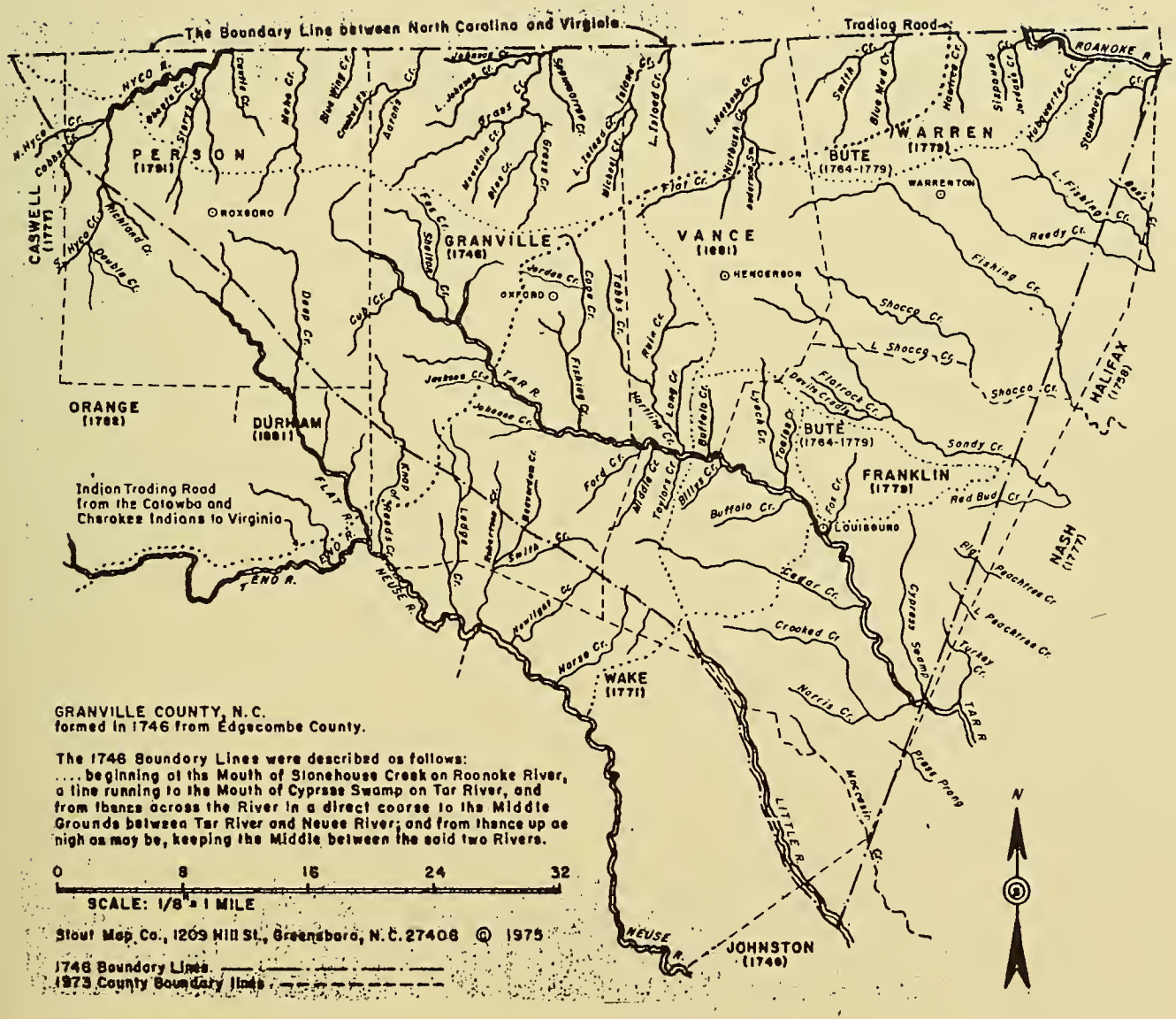
In obedience to the order of your worships made at February Term 1859, I expose the slaves Franky & her children Amanda & Julia, to publick sale in the town of Henderson on the 9th April 1859, after due notice, when Protheus E A Jones became the last & highest bidder at the sum of $1910, and gave his bond therefore at six months, with John D Hawkins as surety – I consider the sale a fair one – and hold the bond subject to the order of the Court.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Thos S Brodie Cons
May Court 1859

Exhibit C

N.C. State Archives, *Miscellaneous Records of Slaves and Free Persons of Color, Granville County.* Copy of a report made to the court of the sale of Franky and her children, Amanda and Julia, to Protheus E. A. Jones in 1859.


The Boundary Line between North Carolina and Virginia
Trading Road
PERSON (1791)
CASWELL (1777)
ORANGE (1752)
DURHAM (1881)
GRANVILLE (1746)
VANCE (1881)
WARREN (1779)
BUTE (1764-1779)
FRANKLIN (1779)
HALIFAX (1758)
NASH (1777)
WAKE (1771)
JOHNSTON (1746)
ROXBORO
OXFORD
HENDERSON
WARRENTON
LOUISBURG
Indian Trading Road from the Catawba and Cherokee Indians to Virginia
GRANVILLE COUNTY, N.C.
formed in 1746 from Edgecombe County.
The 1746 Boundary Lines were described as follows:
.... beginning at the Mouth of Stonehouse Creek on Roonoke River, a line running to the Mouth of Cypress Swamp on Tar River, and from thence across the River in a direct course to the Middle Grounds between Tar River and Neuse River; and from thence up as high as may be, keeping the Middle between the said two Rivers.
0 8 16 24 32
SCALE: 1/8" = 1 MILE
Stout Map Co., 1209 Hill St., Greensboro, N.C. 27408 © 1975
1746 Boundary Lines
1973 County Boundary Lines
N

CHAPTER II

FRANK

The Civil War Veteran

I've known rivers:
I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than
the flow of human blood in human veins
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

"The Negro Speaks of Rivers"
Langston Hughes

CHAPTER II

FRANK McGHEE
1841-1946

Without a doubt Frank is remembered by more people inside and outside of this family than any of the others named in this work. He lived for a long, long time, although perhaps not as long (112 years) as his death certificate would indicate. If, as he himself stated, Robert was his father and Caroline his mother, it is highly improbable that he was born in 1834. In a newspaper article written by Thad Stem (shown on the following pages) his year of birth is given as 1843, and is tied to the assertion that Isaac Burwell died the year that he was born. Information which would show that the two events occured in the same year is not available to me. Be that as it may, Frank lived for a very, very, long time, and received some recognition for this fact alone.

Richard P. Taylor, who was supposed to be the last slaveholder of this family, enlisted in the Confederate Army on September 7, 1861. It is generally believed that Taylor had not held this family long before the war began. He took Frank to war with him as his servant to shine his boots and brass. Frank said that he was young when he went to war, but he never said how young. They were in Company "G", the Granville Rangers, 30th Regiment of the North Carolina Infantry. Most soldiers stayed in the Army until the end of the war, but it is not certain that Richard P. Taylor did. Frank's pension application does show that he was a servant until January, 1865.

Frank was married at least three times, and on each of these documents his age is different. Before the institution of slavery ended he was certainly old enough to have had a marriage arranged for him, but no information along these lines remains. Whether he had children from these early slave marriages is lost from present knowledge. By the time he married Ida Hicks in 1871, he was at least in his late twenties. When Ida died, he was left with four small children to raise. His next recorded marriage was in 1879 to Anna Johnson of Henderson, N.C. who bore him one son. Frank was a man of fifty years of age when he married Annie Ragland. It was she with whom he spent the remainder of his life.

During one period of time, Frank and his family lived in a house on what is known as Prison Camp Road. The log house, built with wooden pegs instead of nails, was later covered over with weather board and planks of tongue and groove. Although it is still standing, it has long since been uninhabitable.

Frank farmed some, as did all of the early McGhees. For some time he owned his own small farm which he bought from Emma and Jack Kittrell. It was located next to the old Burwell homeplace. At another time he and his brother David owned another plot of land which they bought from Willie Blackwell. Later still, Frank also was the owner of a little store located at the corner of his property on Highway #96. It has been in recent years that a drunken driver missed the curve in the road late one night and tore the old store down when the car went out of control.

The older children married and moved away, while the youngest son, Dave, married and continued to live in the same house with his parents. Needing larger quarters for his growing family he began building a house for them. About that time the old Huntsville Baptist Church was being torn down and remodeled. Dave carried some of the discarded lumber from the church and incorporated it into the building of his house. Most of the outside wall boards and the downstairs flooring came from the old church. He completed the structure in 1925 and moved his wife, six children and parents into it. Sixty years later, the house still stands on highway #96, is occupied by Dave's second wife, Sula, and looks very much like it did when first built.

It was from this house that Frank, now in his eighties, walked the three or four miles to and from town almost every day, when the weather was fair. If the weather was inclement, he could be seen sitting on the front porch, his ever present pipe clutched beneath his mustache, watching with his one remaining good eye, the world go by. As he got older still (or didn't feel like walking, which was seldom) he would walk down the hill from his house,

stand on the shoulder of the highway and hitch a ride. He became well-known by the many people traveling that highway who stopped to pick him up in response to his gently waving white handkerchief. In town, he would pass the day socializing and gossiping with his cronies under the large town clock or across the street in front of the drugstore at the corner of College and Williamsboro Streets. Around 4:30 or 5 o'clock he would return home, riding only if it was raining. He never worried about how he would get to town and back. He would throw up the handkerchief to flag a car and somebody would give him a ride. Only snow, sleet or rain kept him at home. On those days he would sit rocking on the front porch watching the traffic go by.

This routine was followed the last Saturday of his life. He had spent his usual day in town. The next day was Sunday, a day of rest and church going, so Frank arose as usual but not feeling well, did not eat his usual hearty breakfast. A little after noon, he laid down to rest and never arose again. Fighting against the odds that he would live through the night, it was a week before he succumbed to the initial stroke and its complication. His wife, Annie, survived him and died in 1952 when she too was nearly 100 years old. Both of them are buried in the graveyard of the Huntsville Baptist Church.

A nephew said of Frank "...Uncle Frank was a "sporting man". He was a man of the world...He was a man of big words...Courting women and loving women, that's all he did... and that's the truth!"

He Remembers The Auction Block

Uncle Frank McGee doesn't know the month of his birth, but he figures it was 96 years ago. Some of his people's white folks died the year he was born, and he uses that to count up his age. He was born in slavery, followed his master to war, and now is Granville county's last Confederate soldier.

The Slave Narrative Collection, sponsored by the Library of Congress and done by the Works Project Administration (WPA) during the 1930's sought to gather first hand information about slavery by interviewing slaves living in seventeen southern states, including Texas and Oklahoma. Federal workers transcribed face to face interviews and the entire series is now available for reading on microfiche. Among the many criticisms this work received was that the interviewers talked only to those former slaves who were living in large metropolitan areas. Although many former slaves were still living in the rural south, this area for the most part was neglected by the interviewers. The following article written by North Carolina's Thad Stem, reprinted here in its entirety, partially compensated for that omission.

The Durham Herald-Sun

DURHAM, N. C., SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1939

Former Slave Is Granville's Last Confederate

Frank M'Gee Bears Marks Of 96 Years

He's Grateful For What Yankees Did For Him, But He Still Cusses Them

By THAD G. STEM, Jr.

Oxford, Oct. 7.—(Special)—Uncle Frank McGee is a most remarkable Negro. For one think he has lived 96 years. He doesn't know when his birthday comes, and has no idea in which of the 12 months he was born. Yet he has a sure-fire method of measuring his years accurately. He tells you, "Mistress Paris, what was a Burwell, says that I was born the year that her Uncle Ike died. And they figures that to be 96 years ago. I'se always measured my age that way."

This manner of gauging one's age in relationship to another event was quite common among the slaves. Many of them dated their births from the year of "the big snow" or the "year of the heavy rains." Uncle Frank was born in Oxford in 1843. His first master and owner was one Thomas Littlejohn, son of the man who once owned all the land upon which the present town of Oxford was built. Frank's master was, as the old darky phrases it, "A plead lawyer in the 'coat' house."

As a boy Frank was placed upon the auction block in Oxford, along with his mother and brother. A Mr. Archibald Taylor of Franklin county bought Frank and his brother for $1,400. His mother was bought by a Granville county planter, and it appeared that the family would be split. However, Frank's father, who belonged to Col. Richard P. Taylor, "hoped buy off us boys," as Frank puts it. So, Frank and his brother stayed in Granville county as the slaves of Col. R. P. Taylor. We wondered how a slave could amass sufficient money for such an undertaking.

Slaves Had Crops

But, according to the venerable Frank, local slave owners made it a practice to give the Negro, "his hans" little crops of their own. These they attended at night by the light from pine-torches. And, during the course of his life, Frank's father had saved $300 from his small crops. This he gladly gave to keep his boys near him.

In 1861 Frank followed his master to the war as a body servant. He served his master faithfully throughout the four years' bloody struggle. Of course, the natural physical infirmities which accompany Frank's advanced years preclude the possibility of his remembering many of the names and great events of the war. But he does recall, vividly, fighting with his master at Fort Fisher, Seven Pines, Charleston, and finally at Appomattax. He still recalls the day that Stonewall Jackson fell. For on that day Frank became a little too bold, and the Yankees almost got him. Until he first saw them as blue-clad soldiers, Frank thought of the Yankee, quite abstractly, as some monster whose head was probably horned.

We asked him about his reactions upon being set free at the termination of the war. He replied with a broad and knowing smile that he was "plumb overcome wid joy." This appeared to be slightly inconsistent with his loyalty and bravery during the war. But Frank's answer to the paradox was that his master was a good man, and that his duty as a good slave was to follow the "old marse."

Reconstruction Days

He well remembers the reconstruction days. He tells of seeing a Klansman whose white horse was so tall that "hit sho must a been a elefant"; and the Klansman drank more water at one sitting than "Tar pronounced 'Tear' river could possibly hold."

He has voted for 75 years, and thinks that he probably voted before he was 21. But he extenuates it with, "That didn't make no never mind in them days." Usually he has been a Republican, but not always; he firmly assures you. For, to quote him, "I didn't mind voting for a real good man, even if he was a Democrat." For a short time he ceased voting at all. He says that it really wasn't any need to, since the Democrats threw his ballots out the window with monotonous regularity.

Frank was a great reader until the sight in his left eye became completely impaired; and his right eye is so poor that he can't make out words on a printed page. He was taught to read and write by two northern women, lady carpet-baggers, as they were, who conducted a Negro school in Oxford. He is grateful for this because it afforded an opportunity for him to read the Bible and "behole the wonders of God's worl'." He is also humbly grateful to the northern people who freed him. But, strangely enough, his commentaries on Yankees are not suitable for the printed page. The southern man's heart, he declares, is mellow and charitable. Whereas, the Yankees' heart—well he admonishes his colored fellows to beware of scheming, false prophets who use the Negro for their own selfish designs. The future of his race, Frank ardently preaches, depends upon their staying here, close to the people who are their real friends.

One Of The Last

Old Uncle Frank and his giddy, picturesque language are emblems of a former era. He is one of the last of the rapidly disappearing links between that era and this.

Old Frank is the last veteran of the War Between the States in Granville county, and one of a mere handful who still survive. The Uncle Franks and Remuses, the Jim Crows, the banjo picking type are increasingly arriving toward virtual extinction. The future holds a different concoction. But, the Uncle Franks have been to our state and section about what the julep was to the planter's drink.

FRANK McGHEE married 1871 - 1st Ida Hicks (4)
1879 - 2nd Anna Johnson (1)
1892 - 3rd Annie Ragland

I. Mittie McGhee (1871-1940) m. Joe Fuller (4)

II. Ellen McGhee (1873-) died very young

III. Joseph McGhee (1875-1942) m. Cora Burt (3)

IV Nannie McGhee (1878-1976) m. Walter Burt (2)

V. Dave McGhee (1885-1964) m. 1st Pearl Burt (6)
2nd Sula Puryear (1)

FRANK McGHEE

I. MITTIE McGHEE (1871-1940) m. Joe Fuller (4)

This part of the family was one of the most difficult of all to track down because they moved North early in this century, and rarely have any of the younger generations returned to visit.

A. Alvin Fuller (-1982) m. (unknown)

B. Mae Ida Fuller ( ) m. Ollie Shanks (1)
(unknown)

C. Annie Fuller ( ) m. (unknown)

D. Kitty Fuller ( ) m. (unknown) (1)
1. Marie ---
(unknown)

MITTIE McGHEE FULLER

III. JOSEPH McGHEE (1875-1942) m. Cora Burt (3)

JOSEPH McGHEE (1875-1942)

There is so much talk about Joe and how he lost his land that it is difficult to separate fact from fiction. It is said that Joe and his brother-in-law, Walter Burt, at one time owned most of "Cooper's Mountain" or the old Jimmy Cooper farm. One version of the story is that he needed $200 in a hurry to go "up North". He borrowed it. This placed a lien on the farm which was put up as collateral to secure the loan. When he did not repay the loan, the farm was taken as payment. Another version of the story would have it that the farm was taken for the back taxes owed on it. Yet another version is that Walter Burt owned the farm anyway.

A document in the hands of this family, dated 22 November 1909, shows that Joe McGhee and Walter Burt did indeed buy a tract of land containing 262.8 acres ". . .from Miss Lucy Belle Cooper, Nathaniel Ellis Cannady, P.H. Montgomery and (Annie Y. Montgomery) wife. . . to Walter Burt and Joseph H. McGhee. . . known as the old James Cooper homestead place upon which is situated his mansion house. . ." for $1,500. A map of the property shows that it bordered the farm owned by Bob McGhee.

For awhile both families (Joseph and Cora, Nannie and Walter) lived in the huge, mid-1800's mansion until the tract of land was divided between the two men.

Today, it sets in the middle of a grove of black walnut trees, its roof caved in. The foundations of several barns and other out buildings are still visible through the tangled undergrowth. In its day, it must have been a glorious house with a fireplace in each of its large high vaulted rooms. The cedar posts which held racks in a basement room of unidentified use still stand firm and secure. Standing in the center of this lower level, one can see the sky. Bearded Irises planted by some long deceased lover of beautiful flowers dot the grounds. Wild turkey feathers scattered on the ground reveal the trail and roosting place of this native American fowl. One can only imagine what a grand place this used to be.

What remains of Joseph McGhee's home

Joe and his wife, Cora, moved to Montclair, New Jersey sometime in the mid 1920's. His daughter Gracie with her husband McKinley Royster, lived for a short time in the house after he left. Joe returned to Granville County only two or three times before dying in New Jersey.

A. Mary Ella McGee (1902-) m. Babe Royster

B. Joseph "Buck" McGee, Jr. (1903-) m. Mary Alice Williams (8)
   1. John Wesley McGee (1928-) m. Geneva Addison (1)
      a. Ronald Patrick McGee
   2. Addie Coradella McGee (1933-) m. Lee Ollie Section (3)
      a. Lee Ollie Section, Jr. (1962-)
      b. Troy Lee Section (1963-)
      c. Chrystal Deborah Lee Section (1966-)
   3. Lawrence McGee (1935-) (twin) m. Deborah Scovins (2)
      a. April Denice McGee
      b. Lawrence McGee, Jr.
   4. Florence McGee (1935-) (twin) m. Harold Jerome Walker (2)
      a. Tracey Walker (1962-)
      b. Kimberly Walker (1964-)
   5. Colonel Joseph McGee (1937-) m. Ida Mae Thomas (3)
      a. Michael Joseph McGee
      b. Craig Allen McGee
      c. Delmar Lawrence McGee

6. Ralph Allen McGee (1934-) m. Doris Jean Drewery (3)
   a. Deborah Brevard McGee (1960-)
   b. Rasheedat Chince McGee
   c. Jerome Mitchell Drewery
7. Jean Yvonne McGee (1942-) m. Bill Mahanna
8. Rosa Alice McGee ( ) m. John Thomas (1)
   a. Marlo Thomas

C. Gracie McGhee (1905-) m. McKinley Royster (2)
1. Cora Royster (1922-) m. Elbert Bobbitt (7)
   a. William McKinley Bobbitt (1937-) m. Helen Gaither (1)
      (1) Benjamin Bobbitt
   b. Doris Mae Helen Bobbitt (1940-) m. --- Profett
   c. Osborn Lee Bobbitt ( )
   d. Elbert Bobbitt, Jr. ( ) m. Ann Evans (1)
      (1) Michael Bobbitt ( )
   e. Shirley Bobbitt ( ) m. Tom Allen, Jr. (6)
      (1) Candice Allen
      (2) Jacqueline Allen
      (3) Tommy Allen
      (4) Barry Allen
      (5) "Meachie" Allen
      (6) Herman Allen
   f. Tony Bobbitt (-1983)
   g. John Thomas Bobbitt (1957-) m. Mary Ann Douglas
2. Roy Royster (1923-1942) Killed in North Africa while fighting in World War II

IV. NANNIE McGHEE (1878-1976) m. Walter Burt (2)

Left: NANNIE McGHEE BURT, Right: MARY HICKS BURT

Farming was hard in those days. There was never enough money to buy food, minimal clothing along with seeds for crops and fertilizer to grow them. It was a hand to mouth existence dependant upon the seasons. Time and time again the farm was used as collateral to secure loans needed to keep the family afloat until the crops were harvested and sold.

When Walter Burt died in 1945, Nannie was hard pressed to hold on to the farm which was now only 78.6 acres. Walter had borrowed $450 from C.B. Keller with the understanding that repayment would occur in the fall when the tobacco was sold. Walter died before the fall came and the crop was sold. Keller demanded immediate payment. Nannie turned to Leonard McGhee, her half-brother Dave's son. Leonard in turn went to his boss, one Joe Baker, who loaned the money for Nannie to save the farm.

A. Frank Burt (1899-) m. Annie Cornelia Hicks (1)
1. Deloris Burt ( ) m. Norman Spencer Glover (1)
a. Norman "Chip" Glover m. --- (1)
(1) Nichole Glover

B. Leora Burt (1902-1935) m. Albert Jones (5)
1. Colonel Albert Jones (1920-) m. Hattie Cheathan (6)
a. John E. Jones (1945-) m. Viola Cherry (4)
(1) Carolyn Jones
(2) John Jones, Jr.
(3) Toney Jones
(4) Nichole Jones (1982-)
b. Delores Jean Jones (1947-) m. Bryon Bogans (1)
(1) Vincent Bogans
c. Carolyn L. Jones (1949-) m. Roy Smith (2)
(1) Eric Smith
(2) Shawn Smith
d. James A. Jones (1950-) m. Everlene Turner (2)
(1) James Andre Jones (1973-)
(2) Shawn Jones (1979-)
e. Audrey Louise Jones (1953-) m. Chestin Brown (2)
(1) William Thomas Brown
(2) Tyrone Davis Brown
f. Barbara Ann Jones (1965-)
2. James Harvey Jones (1923-) m. Ella McGee (3)
a. Wesley Jones (1956-)
b. Karen Jones (1962-)
c. Stephanie Jones (1969-)
3. Elvin Thomas Jones (1927-) m. 1st Carrie Henderson (5)
2nd Gladys Taylor (11)
a. Catherine Jones (1950-) m. Clarence Wilkins (2)
(1) Beverly Wilkins (1972-)
(2) Felecia Wilkins (1978-)
b. Cordene Jones (1951-) m. McDonald Peace (2)
(1) Natalie Peace (1972-)
(2) Clifton peace (1978-)
c. Elvin Thomas Jones, Jr. (1952-) m. Eva M. Tapp (4)
(1) Eric Jones
(2) Robert Jones
(3) Reginald Jones
(4) Elvin Jones, Jr.
d. Albert Lee Jones (1954-) m. Sharon ---
e. Larry Jones (1955-) m. Beverly Terry (1)
(1) LaMont Jones

f. Anthony Jones ( ) m. "Pinky" (2)
(1) Taborn Jones
(2) Julius Jones
g. Denise Jones ( ) m. Edward Harris (3)
(1) Claudette Harris
(2) Suprina Harris
(3) Christie Harris
h. Westley Jones (2)
(1) Tyneki Jones
(2)
i. Jasper Jones
j. Vanessa Jones (1)
(1)
k. Emanuel Jones (2)
(1)
(2)
l. Kemuel Jones (1962-)
m. Mark Christopher Jones (1963-)
n. Floyd Anderson Jones (1964-)
o. Helen Louise Jones (1967-)
p. Lisa Carol Jones (1970-)

4. Frank Hosea Jones (1930-)

5. Carolyn Marie Jones (1933-) m. Roosevelt Fields (6)
a. Charles Fields (1951-) m. Seprara A. Williams (2)
(1) Shawn McKinsey Fields (1972)
(2) Dwayne Fields (1976-)
b. Henry Fields (1952-) m. Sally Ragland (1)
Gloria Hicks (1)
(1) Craig Fields (1974-)
(2) Quincy Fields (1982-)
c. Lawrence Fields (1953-) m. Juanita Brasswell (1)
(1) Monica C. Fields (1975-)
d. Donald Fields (1959-)
e. Mary Catherine Fields (1960-) m. Roy Wright (1)
(1) Shanon Wright (1983)
f. Richard Fields (1966-)

V. DAVE McGHEE (1885-1964) m. 1st Pearl Burt (6)
2nd Sula Puryear (1)

Dave's first wife, Pearl Burt, was sister to his half-brother's wife, Cora Burt. Dave married his second wife, Sula, in 1935 when she was twenty years old and he was fifty. Sula bore one son, Cassius. It fell to Sula to take care of the three old people (Frank, Annie, and Dave) in their last years.

She told many stories of Frank's sense of humor while playing with the grandchildren. He could be quite devilish and was not above playing a practical joke or teasing.

Early in their marriage and for at least ten years afterward, Dave and Sula drove to town by horse and buggy. They watered the horses at the public watering trough situated where Jones' drugstore now stands. There was a blacksmith's shop down near Leggetts which also had a watering trough for those who happened to come to town from that direction. She remembered that mules were also sold at the blacksmith's shop.

Dressed for fall hunting, Dave McGhee on the right, with a friend Oscar Harris of Philadelphia. November, 1936.

A. Addie "Fisher" McGhee (1907-) m. --- Davis (1)
   1. Lillian ( ) m. --- Edmonds (2)
      a. Sharon Edmonds
      b. Bryant Edmonds

B. Annie McGhee (1911-) m. "Peg" Cawell

C. Leonard McGhee (1913-1966) m. Lena Talley (5)
   1. Thomas McGhee (1933-)
   2. Leonard McGhee, Jr. (1936-)
   3. Howard William McGhee (1941-)
   4.
   5.

D. Tazzie McGhee (1915-) m. William Evans (8)
1. Leonard Vincent Evans
2. Johnny Evans
3. Albertina Evans
4. Marjorie Evans
5. Wayne Evans
6. Robert Evans
7. Frank Evans
8.

September, 1940
L-R: ANNIE RAGLAND McGHEE, WILLIAM EVANS,
(husband of granddaughter Tazzie) & Frank McGhee

E. Lillian "Toots" McGhee (1917-) m. Therman Puryear (6)
1. Therman Puryear, Jr. (1934-) m. 1st Mary Ella Fields ( )
2nd Theresa Anderson ( )
   a. Jacqueline Puryear (1957-) m. Kenneth Brewer (2)
      (1) Capricia Brewer
      (2) Kenneth Brewer, Jr.
   b. Therman Puryear, III ( ) m. Patsy --- (2)
      (1)
      (2)
   c. Swannie Puryear ( ) --- (1)
      (1)
   d.

2. William Puryear (1935-) m. Cora Mae Doe (4)
   a. Sidney Puryear (1965-)
   b. Tammy Puryear (1972-)
   c. Marcus Puryear (1975-)
   d. Lemont Puryear (1977-)
3. Gloria Puryear (1937-) m. Charles Pettiford (3)
   a. Sharon Pettiford (1958-) m. Dennis Lyons (1)
      (1) Dennis Paul Lyons, III ( )
   b. Mary Helen Pettiford (1959-) m. Frederick Gooch (2)
      (1) Frederick Gooch (1977)
      (2) Tasha Gooch (1979)
   c. Alice Arnita Pettiford (1966-)
4. David Puryear (1944-) m. --- (2)
   a. Regina Arleane Puryear (1965-)
   b. Ordaryll Puryear (1975-)
5. Juanita Puryear (1948-) m. Robert Lee Cooper (3)
   a. Joseph Rodney Cooper (1967-)
   b. Helen Cooper (1970-)
   c. Jeffrey Cooper (1973)
6. Joyce Puryear (1949-) m. Cecil Tyler (1)
   a. Tonya Tyler (1970-)

F. William Oscar "W.O." McGhee (1921-)

G. Cassius McGhee (1936-) m. Lula Goalston (3)
   1. Sandra McGhee (1)
      a. Shakurah Shanell McGhee (1983-)
   2. Edward McGhee
   3. Georgia Etta McGhee

SOLDIER'S APPLICATION FOR PENSION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Granville

On this 27 day of Feby A.D. 1928, personally appeared before me, D. H. Hunt, O. S. C. in and for the State and County aforesaid, Frank Mc Ghee, age 83 years, and a resident at Oxford postoffice, in said County and State, and who, being duly sworn, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the pension under the provisions of an act entitled "An Act to amend and consolidate the pension laws of the State of North Carolina," ratified March 8, 1921, with amendments thereto: "That he is the identical Frank Mc Ghee servant of Capt. Richard P. Taylor who enlisted in Company G, 30 Regiment, N. C. State Troops, on or about the 7 day of September, 1861, to serve in the armies of the late Confederate States, ~~and that while in said service at~~, ~~in the State of~~, ~~on or about the day of~~, ~~186~~, ~~he received a wound or wounds, etc.~~

(Applicant will here state the nature and extent of his wound and disability, so that a proper classification can be made under the new Pension Law passed by the General Assembly of 1921. Read said section of said law carefully, and to accomplish the classification therein called for, let statement here as to nature and extent of wounds, disability, etc., be very full and explicit.)

He was the servant of Captain Richard P. Taylor, Co. G. 30th Regiment N. C. until January 1865.

He further states that he is, and has been for twelve months immediately preceding this Application for Pension, a *bona fide* resident of North Carolina;

That he holds no office under the United States, or under any State or County, for which he is receiving the sum of three hundred dollars as fees or as salary annually;

That he is not worth in his own right, or the right of his wife, property at its assessed value for taxation to the amount of two thousand dollars ($2,000), nor has he disposed of property of such value by gift or voluntary conveyance since the 11th of March, 1885;

And that he is not now receiving any aid from the State of North Carolina or under any other statute providing for the relief of the maimed and blind soldiers of this or any other State.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 27 day of Feby, 1928.

Signature of O. S. C.

Frank Mc Ghee
Signature of Applicant.

Also personally appeared before me D. H. Hunt, who resides at Oxford, postoffice, in said County and State, a person who is known to be respectable and entitled to credit, and being by me duly sworn, says he is acquainted with Frank Mc Ghee, the applicant for pension, and has every reason to believe that he is the identical person he represents himself to be, and that the facts set forth in this affidavit are correct, to the best of his knowledge and belief, and that he has no interest, direct or indirect, in this claim.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 27 day of Feby, 1928.

Signature of O. S. C.

D. H. Hunt
Signature of Witness.

Exhibit A
N.C. State Archives, *Copy of Frank's Pension Application.*

B. S. ROYSTER B. S. ROYSTER, JR.

LAW OFFICES OF
ROYSTER & ROYSTER
OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

September 14, 1928.

Look up land
let me know
BSR

Hon. Baxter Durham,
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Mr. Durham:-

In Re:
Pension for Frank McGhee

Frank McGhee has just been in to see the writer and tells him that his certificate from the County Board of Pensions, showing him to be entitled to pension, was sent in to your Office several months ago. We will thank you to investigate this and let us know at once whether or not you have such a certificate. In case you have not and will so advise us we will arrange to obtain this certificate without delay. In the event that you find such a certificate, we certainly hope that you will use your best efforts to let this old man have his money at once.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter, and with assurances of esteem and best wishes, we are,

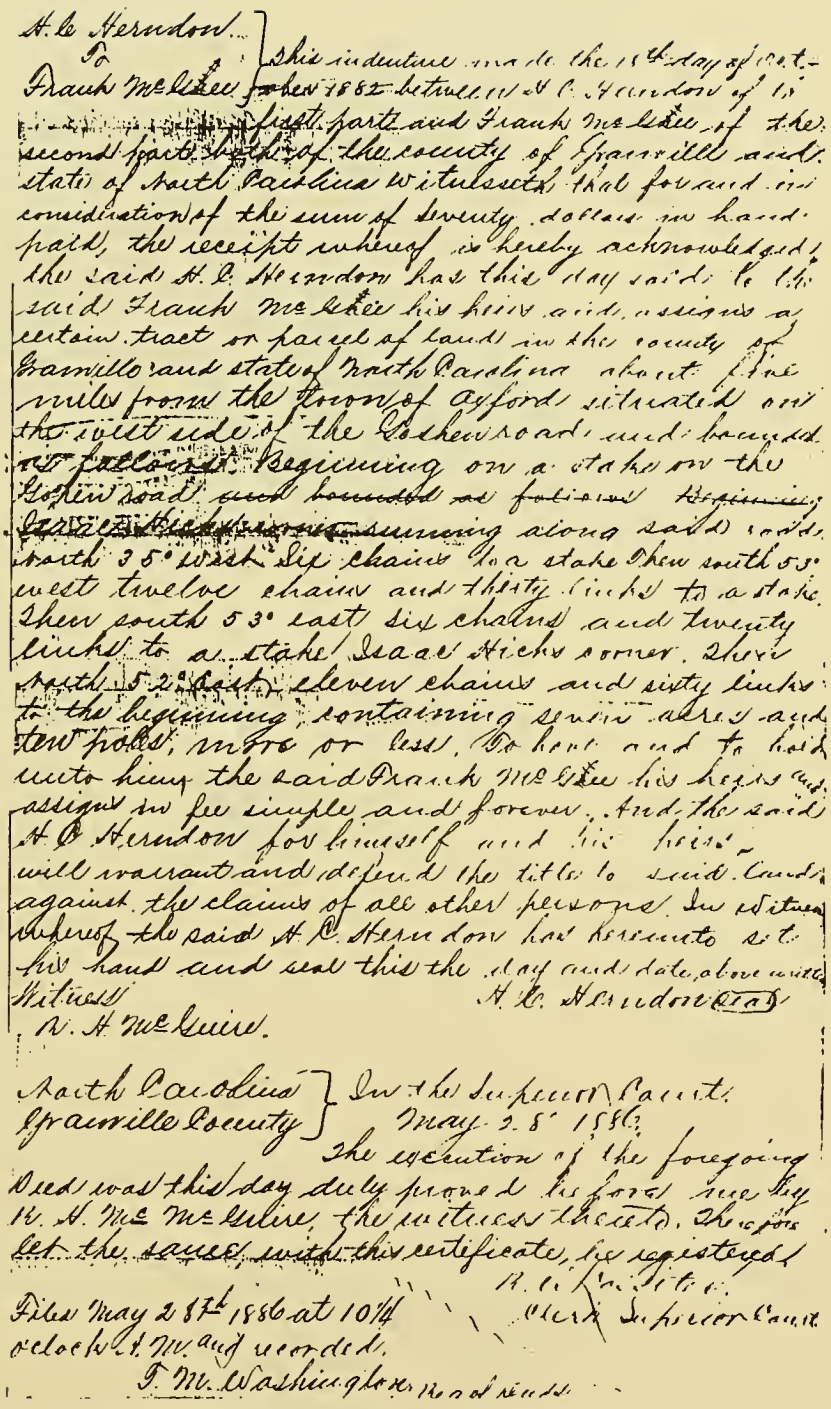
Cordially yours,

Royster & Royster,

By B. S. Royster, Jr.

BSR:JR/LJJ

Exhibit B
N.C. State Archives. *Copy of letter from lawyer re: pension.*



H. C. Herndon to Frank McGhee (1882). Deed Book #39, p. 361.

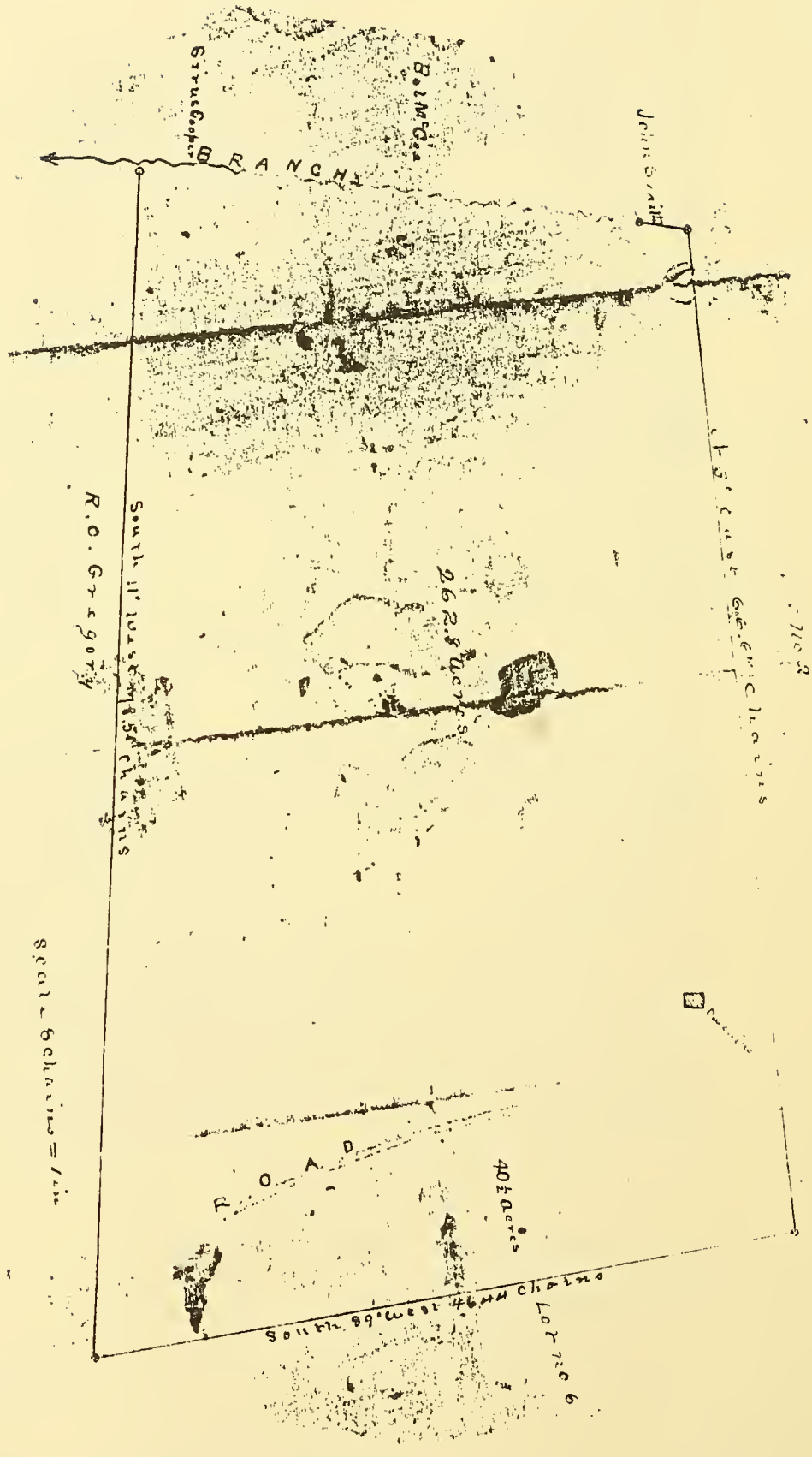


Exhibit C
McGhee-Burt farm. Reproduced from family papers.

CHAPTER III

FANNIE

From Love to Law: A Craftsman Enters

Some are teethed on a silver spoon,
With the stars strung for a rattle;
I cut my teeth as the black
raccoon—
For implements of battle.

"Saturday's Child"
Countee Cullen

CHAPTER III

FANNIE McGHEE POOLE
1843-1920

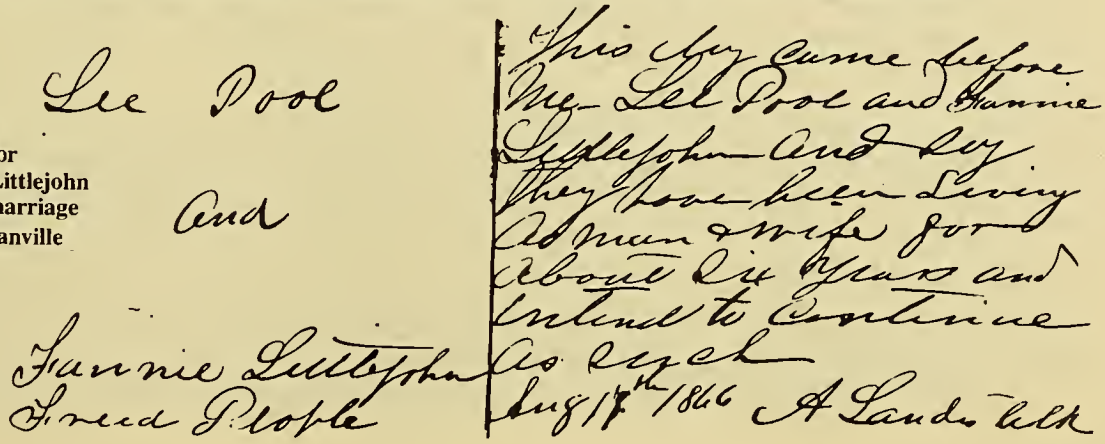
Fannie was the oldest of the four girls in the family. There is some evidence that she was also sold from her family before the end of the war. The clues which are available were not strong enough for me to follow long enough to draw any firm conclusions.

As has been previously stated, slaves were forbidden by law to marry officially, but few restraints were placed on their cohabiting together as man and wife if that fitted the slaveholder's plans. Soon after the war ended, a state law was passed which required all of those who had been living together as man and wife to come before the Clerk of Court, or some other designated official, to declare their status and state their intentions to continue that status. The wording of the oath varied from county to county, but the intent remained the same, i.e., to legalize according to state law, the marriages of freed people. The few months originally set aside for this procedure to be completed proved not long enough, and the time limit was later extended. These cohabitation records were made from March, 1866 to January, 1868.

It is believed that most, but not all, of the former slaves did obey the law and did report in. Their testimony was duly recorded at each county seat, each using similar language. Many of those early records have been lost. From Granville County, two books entitled *Marriages of Freed People* were placed on microfilm in the state's archives. They contained the names of over 1,500 couples who came to the court, during 1866-1868, and made sworn statements verifying their marriages to each other.

The major purpose for pursuing this area in my search was to find documentation of Robert and Caroline from the beginning of their marriage as a way of double checking the census reports which are notoriously inaccurate as far as dates are concerned regarding years of birth and the number of years married. I had hoped that this information would also help determine the birth of their first child. I had read the information twice, very carefully each time, before I reminded myself once again that slave children used the names of their mothers and what I had skipped over at first glance was indeed the declaration of marriage for Lee and Fannie. It read:

> *"Lee Pool and Fannie Littlejohn, Freed People*
> *This day came before me Lee Pool and Fannie Littlejohn and say they have been living as man and wife for about six years and intend to continue as such...August 17th 1866...*A. Landis, Clerk"



Cohabitation Record for Lee Pool and Fannie Littlejohn showing six years of marriage in 1866. Record in Granville County courthouse.

What a marvelous find this was! It is not now known if Lee and Fannie had been living on the same or different plantations. It is apparent that they had had a stable marriage for at least the six years that they reported. In some counties this type of record also contains the number of children that the couple had at the time of the declaration. Unfortunately, Granville County did not follow this procedure. If it had the oldest children would have been named or at least enumerated.

The next record of Fannie and Lee is of their names on the 1880 Census when they were living in the town of Oxford. Lee's occupation is that of a brickmason, Fannie is keeping house, and the oldest son, Robert, is a brickmason. Amanda is identified as a daughter, at school, and the younger sons Gales and "Heughie" are also in the household. The name "Pool" is still being spelled without the "e" by the person who was the enumerator.

As in all cases when dealing with the Population Schedules of the U.S. Census we must now skip to 1900 because the 1890 census was destroyed by fire in Washington. Fannie as a widow, (her husband Lee had died on August 9, 1895 at the age of 50 years and 11 months) was living on Orange Street in Oxford. In the household with her were her daughter Amanda Skidmore, son Hugh, and Amanda's children Edgar, Maudia and Thomas, Jr. Fannie stated that she had had seven children, four of whom were alive at that time. It was this last bit of information that led me to believe that the oldest son, Robert, might have been still alive in 1900 even though I had searched all of Granville County records without finding him.

It was to be many months before I realized my mistake in assuming that the four children she had said were alive in 1900 were the same four children listed in the household in the 1880 census. The 1880 census told the relationship of those in the household to the "head" of the family, in this case, Lee Pool. I was never able to locate Fannie and her family in 1870 (neither was I able to locate Frank in 1870). Had I been able to do so, perhaps my error would not have gone undetected for so long. As it turned out Robert was not Fannie's child, but he was husband Lee's child from a former marriage. Because Robert was named as a son, he was Lee's and not necessarily Fannie's. The fourth child was a daughter, Caroline, which I had missed completely in my search. I had never heard of her and none of the people with whom I had talked concerning Fannie had mentioned her to me.

Because Robert could not be found in the 1900 census in Granville County, I had looked at surrounding counties for him to no avail. I had followed three different Robert Pools through the records until they showed that they were not the one for whom I was looking. I then assumed that he must have died at some time after 1900 but before 1910, in Granville County. Another mistaken idea became apparent to me. The McGhee family had stayed in the county because they were farmers who owned the land, and they stayed where there was work that they knew so that they could make a livelihood. This provincialism was never necessary for the craftsmen of stone masons, carpenters, farriers and such. They moved to where the work was. Fannie's husband was the only one of that generation of freed slaves who was a craftsman; therefore, he moved freely about the countryside to work on large and small jobs.

It was by sheer chance that the grandson of the Robert Pool whom I had spent so many long hours looking for, attended a presentation I gave on how to conduct Afro-American genealogy. Hearing that I was from Granville County, he approached me after the program to ask more details about the family lines. Without this chance encounter, I would never have known what happened to Robert Pool and that Fannie had a daughter named Caroline. More importantly, the marvelous journals that Robert kept would not have come to light.

The exact date that Robert wrote his autobiography is not clear from the torn and yellowed pages. The notebook itself measures about 5½ × 8½ inches. It is in his own handwriting and reads as if he is not only a grown man but is married and all of his children have been born. Besides the notebook containing the story of his early life, he left another, smaller notebook filled with arithmetical figuring of fractions, whole numbers, and examples of equations and problem solving. It is not clear if this is school-work, or the figuring of a craftsman who needed to know how many bricks would be needed for a building of a certain dimension.

The journal graphically tells how the newly freed people wandered, looking for a home in which they could feel secure. If they stayed with the last slaveholder of record, or maintained knowledge of and speaking acquaintance with them, it was because they had developed some type of rapport and mutual dependancy with each other. This was not often the case. One can determine from reading the journal, the tenuous hold with which the recently freed people held to their very survival. They moved from place to place, even across county lines, trying to find for themselves a home.

I will let Robert Lee Pool tell you of his journey in his own words. I have only added some minimal punctuation to assist with the readibility of the document. Although Fannie did not give birth to Robert, his inclusion in this work adds much needed understanding of the people, the place, and the time.

> *[A Mr. Cannady, the plantation owner]...He had conceived in his mind that I should remain so until I was 21 years of age. So after he learned where my mother and I had stopped, which was*

at the home of one Mr. Whitfield near Franklinton, N.C. So in a few months he made his[self] up to Mr. Whitfields, and finding me in the yard alone he kidnaped me and took me back to his home on horse back. But just as soon as my mother learned my where about two Yankee officers were sent from Franklinton with a teem to get me and what belongings that he would not let my mother take with her when she left the old plantation.

But when the officers arrived at the old plantation, Mr. Canady had gone to Louisburg to have me bound to him until I would be 21 years of age. Never the lest, those blue jacket Yankee officers went there and had my mother's belongings loaded on the wagon and ordered me to get on the wagon. And they marched with those big pistols in their belts and Mrs. Canady did not open her mouth only to hollow and cry at the last of me.

But on Mr. Canadies return, clothesed with the authority that I was bound to him until I was 21 years of age, I was not there. They had taken me away. He could only behold where I use to be. So I have not been able to see Mr. Canady since as I know of.

Those men walked five miles going and coming because it was an ox cart and they seem to prefer walking. And on their way back they seem to realize that they had done a great work in coming down there rescuing me, a poor broken hearted lad, as I was at that time kidnaped by a white man and taken away from my mother probly never to see her again. For 2 or 3 days and nights I could not sleep, eat, nor drink, but cried night and day for my mother. And those men said to me on their way back "Ain't you glad, sir." And I said, "Yes, sir."

And in a short while I was restored to my mother again at the home of Mr. Whitfield where I was taken from.

And during the time that she was at the Mr. Whitfield, her husband died, my step father, not my real father. She was sold from my father and she married again. But after he [the stepfather] died, she moved from there to Kittrells, N.C. And in 1866 she left Kittrells with me and went to Tom Rainey's Saw Mill near Sandy Fork, N.C. which place I [had been] born. During our stay with Mr. Rainey, my real father, Lee Pool, learned of my whereabouts for the first time after my mother was sold from him. For he also had married again. [This last sentence refers to Fannie McGhee. Frustratingly, he did not refer to his birth mother by her given name, and none of his descendants remember hearing him say what her name was.]

He came down from Oxford to Mr. Rainey's and asked my mother would she let him have me. She consented and got me to consent also. So this was about the first of 1867 that he taken me to Oxford. And during this year he move from Oxford out in the country to the plantation of one Coln. Richard Taylor. And during 1867 my mother married again and some time afterward she took sick. [She] sent her husband to my father to ask him to let me come to wait on her during her sickness and he did so.

I went to my mother's bed side, finding her very sick with fever. And in a week or two she died and will[ed] that I be brought back to my father and that I should stay with him. After she was laid away in the old family burying ground, I was taken back to the Taylor plantation to my father, by her husband, and her will was carried out for I stayed with my father til I was 22 years old.

And from this Taylor plantation, I made my first [trip] to school. It was a free school in Oxford, taught by Yankee ladies. I attended these free schools until I could read and write. And in [the] later part of 1867 my father moved back to Oxford taking me with him. He went back to live with a white Methodist preacher. There I was stopped from school because I was large. [Several lines here are undistinguishable. . .]

I was out of school 1868 & 1869. I returned back to the free school in 1870. And in 1871 I went to work in a plug factory as a tobacco stemer, the first work that I ever did for wages. And in 1872 and 1873 I was hired out by the year in Oxford [to] one Mr. Taylor to work in the first tobacco warehouse that was built in Oxford. There I learned to be a very skillful hand with tobacco. In 1874 I had grown to be a good, large lad boy and my father commence[d] to take me to work with him as a helper [in] the mason trade. And in 1875 mason work was dull, and I got me another job in a country plug factory, stemming tobacco at 8 dollars per month and board.

And leaving the factory in the later part of 1875 I went back to the mason and I continued to follow that trade. And from 1875 to 1880 I worked myself up from 8 dollars a month to $1.75 per day.

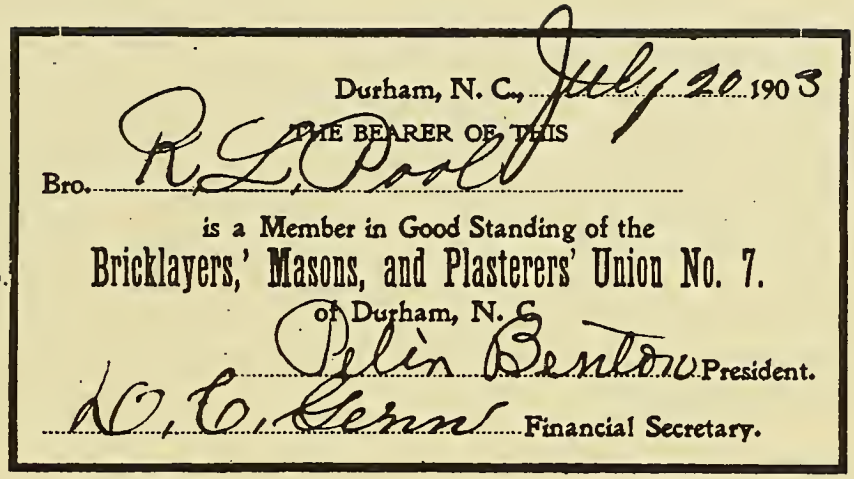
My carear [sic] in [then?] was different to that of the boy of today. When Sunday came I had to

go to Sunday School. When night came I had to be at home. . . .there was not what we call bad boys and girls at that time. Never had what I call but one fight in my life. Never taken a drink of whiskey in a bar room in my life. I never smoked but one cigarette in my life. I never taken what I call but one chew of tobacco in my life. I never give my father one nickle worth of trouble in his life time. Never was accused of any crime in my life time. I never was had before the court for anything. I never cursed an oath in my life time, and never thought I was a man until I was 22 years old. I always obeyed my parents.

In 1882 my ambition began to grow to be a machanic, so at the age of 23 I stept-out into the world to graple for my self, for I worked for my father til I was 22 years of age as I have said. I went out on the road as a journey workman in 1882 for the first time in Henderson, N.C. I gained favor with my boss in Henderson and in 1883 he taken me to Durham, which was my first trip.

And there I have spent and will spend the remainder of my life and here I have learned to be master of my trade. Since being here I have worked in different parts of the state, South Carolina and Virginia, but have made Durham my home because I have bought and built here and also married. While here in 1886 I spent a few months in Shaw University and before I could get back, my mind changed. So in 1888 I led to the marriage alter in Hillsboro, N.C. Miss Bennie Faucette and since that time I have been strugling with the affects that marriage life brings fourth . . .

ROBERT LEE POOL
as a young man
1859-1913



Durham, N. C., July 20 1903

THE BEARER OF THIS

Bro. R. L. Poole

is a Member in Good Standing of the

Bricklayers,' Masons, and Plasterers' Union No. 7.

of Durham, N. C.

Pelin Benton President.

W. C. Gerrs Financial Secretary.

Union card for Robert L. Pool (1903).

Robert Pool plied his trade of brickmasonry from his home base in Durham until his death in 1913. In the smaller of the two notebooks he wrote adages and maxims which struck his fancy, such as, . . ."resolve that the character is worth more than money". He mentioned when a child was born or took the first, faltering steps. There were notes of meetings, mathematical figuring relating to his schooling and to his work, together with dated receipts. This smaller book served as a depository for significant facts about events which now have significant historical value to the area. Some examples:

Durham-Oxford Railroad was commenced in Durham, November 8, 1887.

They laid the iron for the Durham-Oxford Railroad on 16 May 1888.

The engine was put on the same road the 21st day of May 1888.

The first passenger train ran from Oxford to Durham the 10th day of October 1888.

The first mail train ran from Lynchburg [VA] to Durham on September 20, 1890.

The first pressed brick was laid on the courthouse 24 May 1888 by a colored man, Calvin Dunston.

I worked for Hampden-Sydney College in 1889 and 1890.

Brickwork for Duke's factory was finished December 20, 1890.

Trinity College [now part of Duke University] was commenced the 6th day of October 1890. I, Robert L. Poole laid the 7th brick. Old man Washington Duke laid the first two bricks. Calvin Dunston, the first colored man, and I the second [one] that laid brick on Trinity College.

The first tower that was built on Trinity College was finished Saturday, August 8, 1891 at half-past eleven o'clock and it was one hundred feet high of brickwork. It fell Saturday night, August 8th, about eleven o'clock. The second building of the tower on Trinity College commenced on September 29, 1891. The tower of Trinity College was finished on January 30, 1892 for the second time.

The brickwork was finished on the National Bank Building on Main Street in Durham, North Carolina on February 24, 1893.

The Hospital [Watts] was commenced June 6, 1894, near Trinity College.

White Rock Baptist Church was remodeled, 1895.

Stokes Hall burned, August, 1895.

The brick work for Grady School for Colored Children was commenced June 20, 1896.

The brickwork was commenced on George Watts mansion on April 20, 1897.

I saw Haley's Comet in May, 1910.

Warren & Carrington stores were built August, 1895.

He always thought of and cared for Fannie as if she were his birth mother. Even though her children lived near her in Oxford, she depended on Robert for many things after her husband, Lee, died. Robert would send for Fannie to come to Durham and stay with him for awhile. He would take care of her needs by providing her with shoes or whatever clothes she needed at the time. He was as much her son as any to whom she had given birth.

ROBERT LEE POOL (1859-1913) m. Beannie Ann Faucette (6)
- A. Maggie Lee Poole (1888-1976) m. Robert Kelly Bryant (4)
  1. Maggie Lee Bryant (1915-)
  2. R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. (1917-) m. Artelia M. Tennessee (2)
     a. R. Kelly Bryant, III (1960-) m. Rita Mcqueen (2)
        (1) Keith Laquand Bryant (1981-)
        (2) Korey Lashan Bryant (1983-)
     b. Sandra Artelia Bryant (1964-)
  3. Aaron Justinian Bryant (1920-1978)
  4. Bena Frances Bryant (1923-1925)
- B. Fezza Orphelia Poole (1891-1908)
- C. Fannie Lynette Poole (1893-1981)
- D. Leroy Attucks Poole (1895-1895, four months)
- E. Annie Gazella Poole (1896-) m. William Dodson Lipscomb
- F. Robert Edward Poole (1903-1976) m. 1st Mamie Louise Mitchell (2)
  2nd Cora
  1. Robert E. Poole, Jr. (1925-) m. Wilhemenia (1)
     a. Robert Edward Poole, III (1947-)
  2. Margarette L. Poole (1926-) m. 1st Ulysses L. Taylor (1)
     2nd Bostick
     a. Ulysses L. Taylor, Jr. (1944-) m. Gertrude (2)
        (1) Triston Lenard Taylor (1975-)
        (2) Myrin Torrell Taylor (1982-)

GAZELLA POOLE LIPSCOMB
EVELYN ROGERS
EDGAR SKIDMORE

It is difficult to describe Fannie because there are so few people now alive who knew her, and each one remembers her differently. She was a large, heavy-set woman with reddish hair and freckles. She possessed a generally sunny disposition which could change. This was most apparent when Lee, who was something of a ladies' man, got out of hand. On those occasions when Lee would bring her a peace offering, she was as apt to throw it at him as to accept it.

She lived with her daughter Amanda when they both became widows. Her oldest child, Caroline, had married by 1880 and was living with her laborer husband, Granville Hunt, and their two months old baby. While many descendants of Caroline's nine children are alive today, none of Amanda's are. Lee Poole taught all of his sons the trade of brickmasonry by which they earned comfortable livings for themselves. Hugh attended Shaw University and taught there in the school of Architecture for several years. Fannie's descendants can be found living not only in North Carolina, but also in California and along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

Fannie's grand niece, Willard (Ida Faison's daughter) remembers that her Great Aunt Fannie would baby sit with her when her mother had an errand to run or some engagement to keep. She remembers the white apron she wore and that she could really spank hard when the children misbehaved. These bits of memories, plus her wide-spread reputation for being hot-tempered, are all of the essence of Fannie which remains.

FANNIE McGHEE POOL
ca. 1918
picture taken in Durham, N.C.

I. Caroline Pool (1862-1937) m. Granville Hunt (9)
II. Amanda Poole (1866-1913) m. Thomas Skidmore (4)
III. Thomas Gales Poole (1870-1934) m. Mittie E. Nevels (7)
IV. Hugh Allen Poole (1872-1953) m. lst Georgia H. Young (2)
2nd Katie Maples

I. CAROLINE POOLE (1862-1937) m. Granville Hunt (9)

CAROLINE POOLE HUNT
1862-1937

Although there were exceptions, many of the early members of this extended family believed in the occult and practiced "roots". Someone(s) in the very early slave environment passed down the belief in this special brand of sorcery, first to Caroline Poole (who was only a toddler when the slaves were freed) and to at least one of her children and a grandchild as well. This power was also used to cure many illnesses with the judicious prescriptions of plants and herbs to be ingested as well as applied as poultices, with or without bandages.

By the time the 1880 Census was taken, Caroline Poole was married to Granville Hunt, a tobacco factory worker, and her first child, Robert Lee Hunt, was two months old. She lived for many years on the corner of Sycamore and Hillsboro Streets where many of her children were born.

A. Robert Lee Hunt (1880-1923) m. Isabella Pattillo (5)
   1. Robert Lee Hunt, Jr. (1914-)

      He went North to Chicago, left there and went to California sometime after 1950. No one knows where he is today, nor whether he married and had children.
   2. Lillian Viola Hunt (1916-) (unknown)
   3. Ruth Helen Hunt (1920-) (unknown)
   4. Frank Hunt (1922-) (unknown)
   5. Roger M. Hunt (1923-1923) died when two months old.

B. Viola Hunt (1882-1928) m. George Lassiter (1)
   1. David Nathaniel Lassiter (1903-)

C. Belle Hunt (1883-1955) m. Rufus Hester (8)
1. Fannie Hester (1904-1931) m. Collie Parker (6)
a. Collie Parker, Jr. (1919-)
b. James Lawrence Parker (1920-) m. Frances --- (3)
1.
2.
3.
c. Edith Clariece Parker (1922-) m. Melvin Upshaw
d. Vincent C. Parker (1924-1971) m. Dorothy Overby (7)
(1) Betty J. Parker (1947-) m. James Crosby (3)
(a) Zina Michelle Cosby (1965-) (1)
(i) Sharron Deondra Cosby (1981-)
(b) Corey Lamont Cosby (1973-)
(c) Latoya Markell Cosby (1977-)
(2) Vincent C. Parker, Jr. (1950-1982) m. Joanne Lindsay (2)
(a) Diane Michelle Parker (1967-)
(b) Rahsoon Jermaine Parker (1973-)
(3) Leon Parker (1952-) m. Ivory Wooldridge (2)
(a) Leon Parker, Jr. (1975-)
(b) Deon Parker (-)
(4) Brenda Diane Parker (1954-) (3)
(a) Tracy Lamont Parker (1971-)
(b) Antione Dwayne Parker (1974-)
(c) Tyel Lashawn Parker (1976-)
(5) Dorothy Ann Parker (1955-)
(6) Wilhelmina Parker (1956-) (3)
(a) Stacey Yvonne Parker (1972-)
(b) Anthony Travell Parker (1977-)
(c) Detric Darnell Parker (1977-)
(7) Tony Lee Parker (1959-) (1)
(a) Tony Lee Parker, Jr. (1983-)
e. Ralph Leon Parker (1926-)
f. Audrey Helena Parker (1928-) m. Clarence Floyd (2)
1. Clarence Floyd, Jr
2.
2. Roy Hester (1906-1964) m. Hattie Anderson (1)
a. Roy Hester, Jr. (1928-1977)
3. Lucille Hester (1909-) m. Elder Hooks (3)
a. Wanella Hooks m. 1st --- Gordon (3)
2nd --- Brothers (2)
(1) Joanne Marie Gordon m. --- Patterson (1)
(a) Monifa Patterson
(2) Wanda Doreane Gordon (4)
(a) Willie Gordon
(b) Allen Gordon
(c) Lermont Gordon
(d) Nicole Gordon
(3) Desiree Lucille Gordon
(4) Waymond Augustus Brothers, Jr.
(5) Wornis Rofa Brothers (1)
(a) Lisa Camille Brothers
b. Evelyn Hooks (-) m. --- Petrus (2)
(1) Tony Petrus
(2) Kenneth Petrus

c. James Hooks (-) m. 1st --- (3)
2nd --- (3)
(1) James Edward Hooks, Jr.
(2) Larry Hooks
(3) Brenda Hooks
(4) Sherel Hooks
(5) William Hooks
(6) ---

4. Rufus Hester, Jr. (1913-1958) m. Ruth Smith (1)
a. Rufus Hester, III (1936-)
5. Mary Hester (died at 17 years of age)
6. Viola Hester (-) m. Willie Davis (2)
a. Audrey Davis (1955-)
b. Willie Davis (1957-)
7. Dantz Hester (-) m. Addie Yancey (3)
a. Addie Marie Hester (1931-) m. Robert Crews (4)
(1) Jacqueline Crews (1947-) m. James Lindsey (1)
(a) Tomonica Lindsey (1967-1983)
(2) Ronnie Crews (1949-) (1)
(a) Ronnie Crews, Jr. (198 -)
(3) Robert Crews (1951-) m. Sidney Latta (1)
(a) Defonte Crews (1984-)
(4) Anice Crews (1953-) m. Delmont Edwards (2)
(a) Delmont Edwards, Jr. (1978-)
(b) Asley Dwayne Edwards (1980-)
b. Walter Leon Hester (1932-) m. Maybelle Moore (7)
(1) Andrea Moore Hester (1952-)
(2) Anita Elizabeth Hester (1953-)
(3) Theresa Hester
(4) Reggie Hester
(5) Michael Hester
(6) Sandra Hester
(7) Dantz Hester, II
c. Kernal Lee Hester (1934-1940)
8. Ruth Hester (1922-) m. Cleven Rahmings (3)
a. Carol Rahmings (1945-)
b. Cleven Rahmings (1946-) m. Belinda Fuller (2)
(1)
(2)
c. Mark Rahmings (1949-)

D. Thomas Hunt (1886-1975) m. Isabelle Boone (2)
1. Frederick Hunt (1925-)
2. Lynwood Hunt (-)

E. Clyde Hunt (1887-) m. James Owens (1)
1. James Owens, Jr. (-)

CLYDE HUNT & JAMES OWENS
with son James, Jr.

F. Blanche Hunt (1889-1977) m. Grant Albright (1)
1. Grant Albright, Jr. (1915-1975)

G. James Edward Hunt (1895-1950) m. Mollie Boone (4)
1. James E. Hunt, Jr. (1922-)
2. Doriece Hunt (1926-1980) m. Walter Thomas Geer (3)
   a. Phyllis Ann Geer (1948-)
   b. Brenda Joyce Geer (1950-)
   c. Walter T. Geer, Jr. (1952-) m. Maxine George (2)
      (1) Walter T. Geer, III (1977-)
      (2) Adam Nathan Geer (1981-)

3. William Roger Hunt (1933-) m. Elizabeth Wortham (3)
   a. William Roger Hunt, Jr. (1954-) m. Munying Morris (3)
      (1) Vincenta Hunt (1977-)
      (2) Christopher Hunt (1978-)
      (3) Juanito Hunt (1981-)
   b. Pamela Hunt (1955-) m. Steven Sheppard (2)
      (1) Sophonna Sheppard (1973-)
      (2) Steven Sheppard, Jr. (1975-)
   c. Todd Hunt (1965-)
4. Tom Hunt (1939-)

H. Junious Clinton Hunt (1895-1971) m. Lillie Mae Smith (7)
1. Junious Hunt, Jr. (1928-)
2. George Carr Hunt (1930-) m. Ruth Alston (5)
   a. Diane Hunt (1954-) m. Willie Marable (1)
      (1) Quentin Terrel Marable (1982-)
   b. Deborah Hunt (1955-) m. Zelodis Jay (1)
      (1) Henry Jay (1976-)
   c. George Donald Hunt (1957-)
   d. Carolyn Hunt (1958-) m. Lee Page Williams (1)
      (1) Latoya Williams (1982-)
   e. Colonel Quinten Hunt (1961-)
3. Marian Mae Hunt (1931-) (2)
   a. Evelyn Hunt (1956-) m. Napoleon Gee, Jr. (2)
      (1) Occasio Lerrod Gee (1979-)
      (2) Napoleon Kuan Gee (1982-)
   b. Dorothy Mae Hunt (1959-) m. --- (1)
      (1) Lekeithea Nichole McEachern
4. Tillie Hunt (1933-1933)
5. Annie Hunt (1933-1933) 10 day old twins
6. Joann Hunt (1936-) m. Oscar Ward (6)
   a. Mary Delores Ward (1955-)
   b. Catherine Ward (1956-) m. --- (2)
      (1) Shannon Ward
      (2) Desmond Lemont Ward
   c. Michael Thomas Ward (1957-) m. Jackie Harris
   d. Valinda Ward (1959-)
   e. Oscar Lee Ward (1960-) m. Robin Betts (1)
      (1) George Gentlee Ward
   f. Sylvia Diane Ward (1968-)
7. Harold Thomas Hunt (1940-)

I. Carrie Hunt (1899-1971)

II. Amanda Poole (1866-1913) m. Thomas Skidmore (4)

Amanda's husband, who worked on the railroad, was seldom home. She lived with the widowed Fannie on Orange Street where grandmama Fannie, through her occupation as a practical nurse, helped her to rear the children C.D., Edgar, Maude and Thomas, Jr. The boys went to work with their uncles Gales and Hugh and learned brick laying. By 1910, Amanda also was a widow.

A. C. D. Skidmore (1883-1926)

B. Edgar Skidmore (1885-) m. Julia Williams (1)
1. Doris Myrtle Skidmore (-1915)

C. Maude Skidmore (1889-1960) m. Sonny Douglas

D. Thomas Skidmore, Jr. (1890-)

THOMAS SKIDMORE
(somewhere in Maine)
(Fannie's grandson)

MAUDE SKIDMORE DOUGLAS

III. Thomas Gales Poole (1870-1934) m. Mittie E. Nevels (7)

Gales was a tall, handsome man and a natty dresser. He also was a brick mason.

THOMAS GALES POOLE

A. Gertrude Poole (1893-1951) m. Ben Peace (2)
1. Georgia Erma Peace (1916-) m. Francis Overby (2)
a. Kenneth Overby m. 1st Gail --- (2)
2nd Ciadetta Garwood (2)
(1) Shari Overby (1964-)
(2) Shawn Overby (1965-)
(3) Kenneth Overby, Jr. (1972-)
(4) Kyle Overby (1977-)
b. Jean Overby (1945-) m. Robert Weldon (1)
(1) Lelander Weldon (1972-)
2. Gales Peace (1917-) m. 1st Mildred Akers (1)
2nd Jessie Purcell
a. Ernest Peace (1941-) m. Joyce --- (3)
(1) Ernest Peace
(2) Adrian Peace
(3) Celeste Renee Peace

B. Bettie L. Poole (1894-1895) died in infancy

C. Thomas J. Poole (1897-1963) m. Mabel Harden

D. Nathaniel L. Poole (1898-1980) m. Daphne Owens (1)
1. Leonard Poole (1920-1977) m. Mary Austin (6)
a. Nathanie Poole, III (1951-) m. Cathy Martin (1)
(1) Nathaniel Poole IV (1983-)
b. Gregory Poole (1952-)
c. Wanda Poole (1953-) m. Thomas Hawks (3)
(1) Gabriel Hawks (1975-)
(2) Benjamin Hawks (1975-)
(3) Warren Hawks (1977-)
d. Daphne Poole (1954-) m. Malachi Pringle (1)
(1) Dorian Pringle (1983-)
e. June Poole (1956-) m. Richard Reynolds (2)
(1) Jenifer Reynolds (1977-)
(2) Ashley Reynolds (1983-)
f. Eric Poole (1959-)

E. Marie A. Poole (1899-1946) m. William McKeller (2)
1. Velma McKeller (-) m. Sam Cromer (4)
a. William Henry Cromer (-)
b. Delores Cromer (-) m.
c. Geraldine Cromer (-) m.
(1)
(2)
(3)
d. Sandra Cromer (-) m.
(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
2. Thomas Lela McKeller (1924-) m. Henry Wallace (1)
a. Marie Wallace (-) m. --- Matthews (2)
(1)
(2)

IV. Hugh Allen Poole (1872-1953) m. 1st Georgia H. Young (2)
2nd Katie Maple Peace

He learned his profession well. He progressed from being a brick layer, to a master mason, to a building contractor in charge of erecting brick buildings. After graduating from Shaw University he taught in the Department of Architecture there for several years. He did further study and teaching of architecture in Boston, Massachusetts. He was a quiet, gentle, church-going man who was well thought of in the community.

A. Bettie S. Poole (1903-) m. --- (2)
1. Johnnie Mae (-)
2. Marvin (-)

B. Johnnie M. Poole (1908-1951) m. 1st McKinely Wyche (2)
2nd --- Cunningham (1)
3rd --- Fields (1)
1. George Wyche (1924-)

2. Lorenzo Wyche (1929-) m. Jacqueline Fox (2)
   a. Johnny Wyche (-)
   b. Capri Wyche (-)
3. Myra Cunningham (1936-) m. 1st Robert Clark (4)
   2nd --- Joppy (4)
   3rd --- West (1)
   a. LaQuetta Clark (1955-) m. Eric Nelson (1)
      (1) Nikia Nelson (1975-)
   b. Cheryl Clark (1956-1965)
   c. Eric Clark (1958-) m. 1st Theresa Pratt (1)
      2nd Tracey Smallwood (1)
      (1) Erica Clark (1978-)
      (2) Kimberly Clark (1982-)
   d. Alfago Clark (1959-) m. Karen --- (1)
      (1) --- (1984-)
   e. Natasha Joppy (1960-) m. Robert Jackson (1)
      (1)Sabrina Jackson
   f. Mizar Joppy (1961-) m. George Rivers
   g. Miessa Joppy (1962-)
   h. Sadatrice Joppy (1964-)
   i. Chelsa West (1969-)
4. William Fields (1942-1982)

F. Claiborne L. Poole (1903-1959) m. Lucinda Lockett (3)
1. Bernard Poole (died in infancy)
2. Roland Poole (1928-) m. Marjorie Yancey (1)
   a. Brenda L. Poole (1951-) m. Daniel m. Contee (2)
      (1) Daniel M. Contee, Jr. (1974-)
      (2) Lynn Adelle Contee (1978-)
3. Theresa M. Poole (1930-) m. Willie Alfred Sullivan

G. Inez M. Poole (1906-1975) m. Lyman Lee Shoffner

CHAPTER IV

AMANDA

You Can Go Home Again

O Lord, the hard-won miles
Have worn my stumbling feet:
Oh, soothe me with thy smiles,
And make my life complete.

"A Prayer"
Paul Lawrence Dunbar

CHAPTER IV

AMANDA "MANDY" McGHEE FAISON
1845-1915

Mandy was almost forgotten in the initial investigation of the progeny of this family. A casual conversation, which could be characterized by what one would call "small talk", with one of her descendants gave enough clues to keep the name, Amanda, in consideration for further study. Because careful examination of all census records in Granville County had failed to yield the name of anyone who even came close to fitting the description or demographic information available of her, I had just about decided to expunge her name from the list of people who I was tracking. At that time I was ready to believe that she was a person who, although connected to the family in some way, was not a sister to the others. By chance one of her descendants, who was a known relative, said, "Oh, yes. Mandy Faison was my grandmother!"

The fact that Amanda had lived in Johnston County at one time was either unknown, or had been forgotten, by those who had provided information for this quest up to that point of revelation. Once this fact entered the picture it was then only a matter of finding her in the population census. That she was there, with her husband and children, was verified by examining the records of that county for 1870. That year they were living in One Moiety of Smithfield Township. In 1880 the family was shown living in the Wilson's Mills area of the county, with the following information showing their ages as of June lst.

Name	Age	Relationship	Occupation
Faison, Orchon	51	head of household	Farmer
Manda	36	wife	
Mary	13	daughter	
Laura	11	daughter	
Robert	9	son	
Paul	6	son	
Ida	3	daughter	
Fannie	1	daughter	

There is no indication that Orchon owned his own farm. Some of the white landowners who owned many acres of land in that township were named: Wilson, Vinson, Tomlinson, Waddell, Wellons, Sanders, Ellington, and Avera. In all probability Orchan farmed on the land belonging to one of them.

How did Amanda get to Johnston County from Granville County? Was she, as a slave, sold there before the end of the war? Did she marry someone from that county after the war and then move there? Did she travel there after the war ended? For what purpose? To take care of some elderly relative? With all of the other members of the family still in Granville County at that time, this remains an unsolved mystery. The most logical explanation is that she was in all probability sold to someone who took her there before the end of the war. Nobody remembers. Perhaps she was sold at the same time as Frank and David, yet Thad Stem's written and published interview years later with Frank in which the sale of the boys and their mother was recounted does not mention Fannie nor Amanda. Perhaps she accompanied Thomas B. Littlejohn to Warren County where he died. Records do show that her husband, Orchon Faison, was born in Warren County.

Even more fascinating is the story of how Amanda returned to Granville County. Somehow, word reached family members that Orchon Faison, Amanda's husband, had died. Mandy had been left alone with eight young children. She had no one to provide food and shelter for her and her brood, and she could not survive. When the patriarch of the tribe heard of her plight, he dispatched two of his sons to gather up Mandy and her group and bring them home. Frank and Tom were selected for this task which they accomplished forthwith. Once again this family demonstrated its tenacity for coming together in spite of adversity.

The turn of the century found Amanda living in the town of Oxford with her daughter Laura, son-in-law Isaac Young (a blacksmith), and a grandchild, Isaac Young, Jr. Three of Mandy's younger children, Ida, Cora, and Colonel were also in the household. Amanda's occupation was that of a nurse. Her daughter Ida was a school teacher.

Amanda died on February 13, 1915, horribly. She lived with the family of her daughter Ida during her last years. On the morning of her death, a woman who had been very ill, called Mandy to her house to cook breakfast because she felt too ill to get out of bed. Mandy went. In her haste to revive the banked wood fire in the kitchen stove, she reached for a can of what she believed to be kerosene to pour on it. The ensuing flame of what proved to be gasoline flared up and engulfed her. Her cries for help only served to hasten the inhalation of the deadly fumes and flames. She did not recover from her burns.

It is believed that she is buried in the old family graveyard.

	AMANDA McGHEE (1845-1915) m. Orchon Faison	(8)
I.	Mary Faison (1857-) m. William J. Reavis	(1)
II.	Laura Faison (1869-1947) m. Isaac Young	(3)
III.	Robert Faison (1871-)	
IV.	Paul Faison (1874-1916) m. Jeanette ---	(1)
V.	Ida Faison (1877-1955) m. Lee H. Johnson	(5)
VI.	Fannie Faison (1879-1921) m. George H. Hester	(4)
VII.	Cora Faison (1882-1907) m. --- Hicks	(2)
VIII.	Colonel Thomas Faison (1885-1946)	

I. Mary's husband, William Reavis, worked for years with the railroad. She was widowed and living with her daughter in Oxford in 1910. Records show that she was on the faculty of Mary Potter School during 1912-13. Sometime after this she moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Her Uncle David (Amanda's brother) stayed with her while undergoing cancer treatments at Johns Hopkins hospital in 1913. Her sister, Fannie, also lived with Mary in Baltimore while she attended Morgan State College. Mary later moved to Trenton, New Jersey, and it is believed that she died there. She had only one child, a daughter, whose status is not known.

A. Willie Reavis (1891-)

II. Laura Faison (1869-1947) m. Isaac Young (2)

Laura and her husband, a blacksmith, were buying their own home in Oxford in 1910. It is not clear why she moved to Wilson, North Carolina around 1911. People there remembered her as an invalid. They remembered her son Donald, and her niece May Hazel Hicks (Cora's daughter) who they believed to be her own child.

A. Colonel Isaac Young (1897-1915) died in Wilson at 18 years of age.
B. Donald Young

Laura's death certificate shows that she was a widow at the time of her death and that she had lived in Wilson for thirty-six years.

III. Robert Faison (1871-)

He left home as a boy (or young man) and was never heard from again.

IV. Paul Faison (1874-1916) m. Jeanette --- (1)

A. Pauline Faison

It is generally believed that Paul died in Baltimore.

MARY FAISON REAVIS

LAURA FAISON YOUNG (seated), MAY HAZEL HICKS

V. Ida Faison (1877-1955) m. Lee H. Johnson (Rev.) (5)

She taught in the Huntsville and other county schools most of her life. Her husband, Rev. Lee H. Johnson, was pastor of Huntsville Baptist Church for awhile. He would drive a T Model Ford when he called on his parishioners. It was the custom in those days for the minister not only to have dinner with a church family, but also to spend the night. Two sons were also ministers. All of her children and grandchildren were well educated up to the Ph.D. degree.

A. William Randolph Johnson (1903-1955) m. Marina Townes (3)
   1. William Randolph Johnson, Jr. (1930-) m. Wendolyn Wallace (3)
      a. Wendolyn Marie Johnson (1955-1980)
      b. Pamela Rose Johnson
      c. William Randolph Johnson III
   2. Lee Johnson (1932-) m. Selma Charity (5)
      a. Anthony Clark Johnson
      b. Larry Lee Johnson (twin)
      c. Barry Lee Johnson (twin)
      d. Charles Edward Johnson
      e. Boyce Johnson
   3. Marina Johnson (1935-) m. James Bell

B. James Edward Johnson (1906-1965) m. Muriel Tunston

C. Frances Willard Johnson (1910-) m. G. C. Hawley (1)
   1. Helen Hawley (-)m. 1st Earl Randolph Edwards (3)
      2nd Harlan Burger
      a. Linda Edwards (1963-)
      b. Earl R. Edwards, Jr. (1966-)
      c. Jason C. Edwards (1968-)

D. Sam Johnson (1912-) m. Ollie Hamme

E. Paul Johnson (Rev.) (1913-) m. Susie Cureton (4)
   1. Paul Harold Johnson, Jr.
   2. Delcie Johnson (-) m. Vincent Cook (1)
      a. Vernette Cook (1971-)
   3. Cureton Lee Johnson (Rev.) m. --- (2)
      a.
      b.

VI. Fannie Faison (1879-1921) m. George Hester (4)

She lived in Baltimore with her older sister, Mary, and was educated at Morgan College. She later taught in Granville County Schools. Her youngest son, Seth, would become a school principal in Granville County in later years.

A. George Hester, Jr. (1908-1979)

B. Ruth Hester (1909-1984) m. Thomas Perkinson

C. Lydia Hester (1911-1984) m. Thomas Riley

D. Seth William Hester (1919-) m. Delcine Womble (1)
   1. Stephanie Hester (1953-) m. Bertran Bryan

Seated L to R: Willard Johnson Hawley, Rev. Lee H. Johnson I, Ida Faison Johnson, Randolph Johnson.
Standing L to R: Marina Johnson Bell, Cleveland Hawley, Ollie Hamme Johnson, Lee Johnson II, Susie Cureton Johnson, Rev. Paul Johnson, Clara Lancaster Johnson, James Edward Johnson, Randolph Johnson, Jr., Helen Hawley Burgess.

FANNIE FAISON HESTER

VII. Cora Faison (1882-1907) m. --- Hicks (2)

She died very young of typhoid fever when her two children were toddlers. Her sister, Laura, came to Oxford and took May Hazel to live with her in Wilson. People in Wilson remember the beautiful voice May Hazel used to sing at various church functions. Cora's other daughter, Faison, was reared by one Nettie Smith in Oxford.

A. May Hazel Hicks (1903-) m. Johnny Pridgeon

B. Faison Hicks (1906-) m. Claude Daniels (1)

1. Twilder Daniels (1927-) m. Theodore Bennett (1)

a.

VIII. Colonel Thomas Faison (1885-1946)

His death certificate lists his occupation as that of a blacksmith. He moved to Wilson around 1916, lived there for thirty years with his sister, Laura, and died there. He never married.

CORA FAISON HICKS
ca 1902

Left: CORA FAISON HICKS Right: FANNIE FAISON HESTER

CHAPTER V

DAVID

Creation of the Black Middle Class

Seems like God didn't see fit to give the black man nothing but dreams --- but He did give us children to make them dreams seem worthwhile.

"A Raisen in the Sun"
Lorraine Hansberry

CHAPTER V

DAVID BROWN McGHEE

1848-1914

David B. McGhee & Grandson, Theodore
standing beside a tobacco pack-house
ca. 1912

David was the fourth child of Robert and Caroline. He told his children that he, along with his brother Frank, was sold at the courthouse steps in Oxford. None of Dave's descendants remembers hearing from him that his mother, Caroline, was sold at the same time. He did tell his children of some of his early life and the slaveholder, Dick Taylor, was mentioned frequently.

In all probability, Dave knew his future wife, Rose, from an early age. If they did not grow up on the same plantation, they grew up on adjoining ones. He watched her grow throughout her childhood to become the beautiful young woman that she became.

David was twenty-three years old and Rose was nineteen when they were married in 1871. It might have been a marriage made in heaven, but it certainly was not one which Rose's mother, "Big Cindy" approved. She did not want Rose to marry Dave. When she heard that they had gotten married, she chased them both with her broom and siced the dog on them. No mother thinks that her daughter's choice of a mate is good enough for her, and perhaps in this respect, Big Cindy thought the same as all mothers.

When Rose and David married in 1871, they continued to live in the area known as "McGehee-Town", near "the mountain" in Oxford Township. The extended family was always close at hand. Living nearby were Robert and Caroline with their younger children Alex, Tom and Mollie (Mary) still living at home with them. Fed married Fannie Hicks and remained in the area. Isabella married Ike Hicks and stayed in the neighborhood for most of their lives. Frank did not move far away when he started his family. It would be many years before succeeding generations would move away. Dave and Rose were among the first to go.

All the McGhees farmed the land. The 1880 Census showed Dave as a tenant farmer in Oxford Township. While searching for kith and kin, a deed was unearthed for a 23 & ⅔ acre farm which David had purchased in 1885 from John W. Hays, Trustee for Anna Wimbish (Exhibit A). It is not clear what happened to this particular farm or why David and his family left it. By 1895 he had moved from Oxford Township and was farming in Fishing Creek Township. It was there that the youngest four of the fourteen children were born.

He farmed for "halves" for a man named Andrew J. Harris, a lawyer in Vance County who owned farm land in Fishing Creek Township. This Andrew J. Harris was brother to the George B. Harris who sold Abram Hester his farm in 1886 (see Chapter XI). Andrew J. Harris offered to sell Dave not only the land that he subsequently purchased, but all of that on which the present Colored (Central) Orphanage now stands. David hesitated to take it on for fear he would get into a financial situation he could not manage. It was suggested to him that he could buy the land for just a little more money than he was paying to rent it. Dave talked it over with Rose and with her encouragement, proceeded to make the timed payments necessary for the purchase of part of the tract he was renting. In 1903 he was granted a deed to a little less than one hundred acres of land for which he paid $1,492. By the time he had finished paying for the first parcel of land, the remainder of the tract had been sold for the Orphanage.

Homeplace of David and Rose

After the family moved to their own tobacco farm they prospered. Hard physical work from sun up to sun down instilled in all of the brood the value of honest labor. The freshly cleared and plowed earth yielded hundreds of Indian arrow-heads, so numerous that one of the favorite past-times of the children was to see which one had gathered the most at eventide.

Dave and Rose were strivers who believed in educating their children as much as they could. Charlie became a carpenter, and Jim attended A. & T. College for awhile to study brick masonry. Most of the girls became school teachers. The influence of Mary Potter Academy on their lives cannot be over estimated. The fact that Ben and Hugh left home and became master chefs will be explained presently.

Daughter Rosa graduated from Mary Potter in class #5. At that time there was a music professor who taught at that school by the name of Buchanan. Dave had bought a piano for Minnie and a violin for Rosa, and Professor Buchanan and his wife taught the children to play these instruments. The Professor, who played the cello himself, organized a small orchestra composed of his students. His wife played the violin, Alf Mangum (who later married Blanche) played the mandolin, Rosa played the violin while Willie Howell played the piano. There were ten or twelve members in this orchestra and they sometimes gave local concerts. Rosa remembered that she and Willie Howell often played duets for local audiences.

They believed they were more fortunate than others, but any inclination to think of themselves as better was dispelled by the fact that many of their best friends lived at the neighboring Colored Orphanage Asylum (now Central Orphanage). They went to school together, played together, and on the farm where some were hired, they worked together. Many of David's daughters, daughters-in-law, and various cousins taught in the Angier Biddle Duke School at the Orphanage during its beginning years.

The family worked hard and played hard. For recreation there were picnics, hay rides, and corn shuckings. Dave built a regulation tennis court on the hard red clay that was beside a tobacco pack house, and the children played tennis with friends during their spare time. Work and entertainment were combined when barn raisings were held and all the neighbors from adjoining farms came to help with the project. The men worked on the barn, the women cooked, the children played, and at the end of the day the structure would be complete. Another occasion which combined work with socializing was a quilting bee, or the annual winter killing of hogs that would find everyone, young and old, with a specific task to complete. Sometimes two or three families would come together to slaughter and dress as many as ten hogs in one day.

There was always Antioch Baptist Church to give spiritual guidance to the family. Established in the mid-1800's in Howell-Town, a community of Blacks who were free before the start of the war, it was the place where all of the community gathered to spend all day on Sundays from early morning Sunday School through regular service, dinner on the church grounds, ending with evening prayers. Of course no drinking, dancing, nor card playing activities were permitted.

The family had just carved out its life style when Dave became ill. His illness was diagnosed as cancer. He had had a hard place on his jaw for most of his life. When he was a little boy, his slaveholder had kicked him across the room because of some displeasure or the other. The spot where the heavy, hobnailed boot had made contact with the side of his face had produced a swelling which never really subsided. Over time, the hard place became firmly attached to his jaw. It was from this wound that the cancer developed, and the family could not be persuaded that the kick did not cause it.

The local doctors whom he visited treated him as best as they could without success. One doctor suggested that he go to Johns Hopkins Hospital where there was more knowledge and better care. The family had no money to pay for such a trip. The boys would have to leave home to find work which would produce the cash needed. Charlie was well established as a carpenter and Jim was too young to leave home. It was decided that Ben and Hugh would leave the farm to find paying jobs in a city. Hugh went to Philadelphia where his Uncle Charles (Rose's brother) lived, and Ben went to Richmond. They started as dishwashers and bus boys in restaurants and both worked their way up to master chefs.

The money they sent home was used to help send their father to Johns Hopkins Hospital where he had the first operation on his jaw. While in Baltimore, David stayed with his niece, Mary (Amanda's oldest daughter), who by then had moved there. His face healed, but the disease returned. This time his son Ben took him to Richmond where he had additional surgery at the large, cancer hospital there. It was too late.

David returned home to the farm. Jeffreys, who wasn't yet an adult, dressed his father's horrible wound every day. As his daughter Rosa tells it,: *"Papa was in the watermelon patch cutting off the watermelons from the vines to carry them to town to sell. . .and his thumb got numb. . .and he lost his knife. . . and that knife was never found until the vines died away and the boys were plowing and they found it".* He had had a stroke. That event on top of the cancer was too much. He died in January, 1914, within the same week that his mother-in-law Lucinda had died. They became the first two bodies to be interred in a family cemetery on the Fishing Creek farm.

Ben returned from Richmond and remained in the county to take care of the farm and the widowed Rose and the younger children. After Rose died in 1943, Ben bought the farm from the other heirs and continued to grow tobacco there until his death in 1960. His prudent management of the land provided for his five children well enough to see each of them become college graduates. Most of the original farm that David McGhee bought in 1903 remains with his descendants to this day.

DAVID B. McGHEE & FAMILY
Seated L to R: David Brown McGhee and Rose Norman McGhee; Benjamin F. & Meta
Standing L to R: Andrew Jeffreys, Blanche, Minnie, Carrie, Hugh, Rosa, Ida, & Bessie.
ca 1905

Absent are Lucinda and Martha, who had started families of their own, Mary Della who was dead, and Charles

It was never my intention when I first started this research, to make a determination of the origin of each of the families who married one McGhee or the other. My focus from the beginning was to discover, if I could, how Robert and Caroline came to be in that place and time in the early 1800's. I knew that Rose, her mother Lucinda (Big Cindy) and her grandmother Lucrecia (Mammy Creacy) were known by the last name of Norman. It is well known that slaves often took the last name of a slaveholder who was more solicitous of them than not, or when that was not desired, they would occasionally invent a name to accompany them in the first and last named world in which they found themselves. It was sheer luck that I came across documents which told how Rose, along with her mother and grandmother, came to be near the same plantation, where Robert and Caroline lived, and why they used the last name of Norman.

This is the story:

A wealthy planter by the name of Thomas W. Norman died in 1852, followed closely by the death of his wife, Sarah Norman in 1853. They had three daughters and a granddaughter who were heirs to the Norman property. They were Martha Norman who was married to Richard P. Taylor, Elizabeth Norman who was married to Armstead Burwell, a daughter Laura Norman and a granddaughter Sally Norman. Richard P. Taylor, on behalf of himself and the others, filed a petition to the November, 1853 Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to divide the slaves of this estate among the surviving heirs. The petition reads:

> *"This cause coming on to be heard, it is ordered, adjudged and deemed that Lunsford A. Paschall, James Cooper, Col. Thomas J. Hicks, Dr. John R. Hicks, and Franklin B. Hester (any three of whom may act) and they are hereby appointed commissioners to divide the following Negro slaves (to wit) Claiborn, Creacy, Hannah, child, Lucinda, Frank, Sandy, Ella, Charles, Laura, Dick and Rose . . . between Richard P. Taylor in right of wife Martha, Armstead R. Burwell in right of his wife Elizabeth, Laura V. Norman, and Sally Norman (minors) as nearly coequal as possible and that they make report of their proceeding. . . to the next term of this court, under their hands and seals. . .*
>
> *"In obedience to the foregoing commission to us directed favors(?). . .the county court of Granville made at November term, 1853, we have proceeded to value and divide the Negroes named in said petition as follows. . .*
>
> *"The total value of the Negroes $5250.00. . ." (Exhibit C)*

The slaves were divided into four lots and it appears that lots were then drawn. Lot #4 of Sandy ($450) and Charles ($850) went to Laura Norman. Lot #3 with Frank ($600) and Dick ($600) went to Armstead Burwell for his wife, Elizabeth. Lot #2 of Hannah and child ($900), Ella ($350) and Laura ($250) went to Sally Norman. Lot #1 of Claiborn ($50), Creacy ($100) and Lucinda and child ($1,100) was drawn by Richard P. Taylor for his wife Martha Norman. The differences in the four totals were made up in cash.

It is estimated that Rose was one year old and still dependent on her mother for nourishment. Tradition has it that the mistress of the house had a young baby at the time of this transaction and that Big Cindy nursed them both throughout their early infancy. Tradition also has it that Rose's father was one Ed Hicks, son of a local planter.

It is doubtful that this was much more than a legal transfer on paper. Rose never spoke of living on the Taylor plantation, but she did know all of the Burwells well. An examination of the will of Thomas W. Norman reveals that he was most explicit in his desire that Dick Taylor did not benefit from the legacy that he left his daughter, Martha.[1] It is quite clear from all oral reports that Creacy and Rose never left the Norman-Burwell household; however, it is believed that Lucinda's location might have changed at one time.

It was a fortunate discovery to find this petition intact. The transaction shows several things that are not readily apparent on the surface. First, it shows the imposed system of matriarchy that was to become systemic of the Black experience in this country. Second, it shows some effort to keep a baby with her mother and grandmother. But Creacy was getting old, as her value of $100.00 reflects, and she went in the lot with her daughter and granddaughter because it probably didn't matter much one way or the other. Lucinda, on the other hand, was in the prime of her life with many years left to bear children to support the slave economy.

But where was Lucinda's father, Rose's father, or any other father for that matter? What was the relationship of Claiborn to the females? For slaves to even try to know their fathers' names was considered a joke by many slaveholders. More often than not, few slaves knew who their fathers were because the families were often broken up with children being sold away from each other. Claiborn[2] was significant to Creasy and Lucinda for their descendants to keep that name, even with its variations of spelling (Clayborn, Claborn, Clavon) to the present day. The names of Sandy and Charles also followed this family for succeeding generations.

LUCINDA "BIG CINDY" NORMAN

(1835-1914)

(picture taken around 1870)

Big Cindy was a tall, big woman, with large hands and feet, high cheek bones, reddish skin, and long, coal black hair said to be as coarse as a horse's mane.

At the time of the 1870 Census she was living with her mother, Creacy, and her children Rose, Charles and Sandy.[3]

In 1900 she was living with her son Sandy (who was then a widower) and his five children in Salem Township. Her son Johnson, with his wife, Martha (daugher of Mary A. Cogswell) and their children lived near them.[4] 1910 found Big Cindy living alone, at 75 years of age, on Stovall Road. She revealed to the census taker that she had had four children (Rose, Charles, Sandy & Johnson), three of whom were alive at that time.[5] The enigma remains as to who one Alexander Norman was, 18 years old in 1880, living with Rose and David as a farm hand, and identified to the census taker as a brother-in-law.[6]

1786 Creacy (Lucretia) Norman-died between 1870 and 1880

1835-1914 Lucinda "Big Cindy" Norman

1852-1943 Rose Zelia Norman-married David Brown McGhee

1858- Charles Norman-lived in Philadelphia, one son, name unknown, one daughter "Eavey"

1861-1907 Sandy Norman m. Sallie Williams (1860-1897) (5)

1882 Lurie Norman

1885 Salcy Norman - last known in New York

1888 Lewis Norman

1892 John Clavon (spelled Clayborn on 1900 census) m. Ruth Stephenson (1)

1930 John Clavon Norman, Jr. m. Dorida Sewell (1)

1961 Jill C. Norman

1897-1920 Sandy Norman

1864 Johnson Norman m. Martha Ann Cogwell (7)
(daughter of Vincent Cogwell & Mary Ann)

1890 Hattie Norman

1891 Vincent Norman

1895 Eugene Norman

1897 Johnnie Norman

1905 Thomas H. Norman

1907 Charles F. Norman

1910 Sam Norman

ROSE ZELIA NORMAN McGHEE
1852-1943

Picture taken around 1870 when she was approximately 18 years old.

SANDY NORMAN
(1861-1907)

It is important to remember that records of births were not systematically kept in North Carolina until the year 1913; therefore, years of birth prior to that time are the best guess based on census data as well as oral tradition. Old family bibles are very useful in determining years of birth and death, but few of these remain. For the slave population, the only way of determining these facts with certainty are from slaveholder's records, if they were kept. For this branch of the family, the census is the only available record.

From this available information, it seems that Lucinda was born when Creacy was in her late forties. It is not hard to imagine that Creacy had had other children before Lucinda, but their names are lost in the past. What is known of Creacy's descendants (other than Rose's line) is that at least one of them became an architect in Charleston, West Virginia, married Ruth Stephenson, and had a son who became a world famous heart surgeon. Their names are John Clavon Norman (the architect), son of Sandy Norman and Sallie Williams, and his son, John Clavon Norman, Jr. (the surgeon) whose mother Ruth, was a school teacher for many years and a well known radio and television personality in the area. John, Jr., an undergraduate Magna Cum Laude graduate of Harvard with a M.D. degree from the same school, subsequently worked as an Associate with the pioneer heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley in Texas.

During the long summers and other school holidays, I sometimes stayed with my grandmama Rose. She was a woman who had reared fourteen children, and as the grandchildren came along she took first one and then another to be around her to gather the fresh vegetables from the garden, fetch water from the well, sweep the kitchen floor or the yard, bring in arm loads of firewood for the fireplace and kitchen stove, and to be used as her legs and arms to fetch and carry what and when she needed. In her nineties, she could still thread a needle without glasses for her eyes. In the evenings when the lamp wicks had been trimmed and all soot washed from their chimneys it was time to rest from the daily chores. As the foot brick which would later be wrapped in flannel warmed in the dying embers of the fireplace, Rose would tell her children and grandchildren stories of how it was when she was a child and lived as a slave.

She remembered when the war ended and the Yankees came. she was playing around the "big house" that day. She had wandered beyond the inner fenced and iron gated yard surrounding the "big house" and had gotten to the outer perimeter gates when she saw the troops advancing on horseback. She turned and ran back to the house as fast as her feet could take her, all the way shouting, "The Yankees are coming! The Yankees are coming!" Pandemonium reigned. Women slaves who were working around the house, fled in fear to the woods, climbed trees and hid in and under every possible object of concealment. The soldiers thundered into the house demanding that the mistress cook food for them. Mammy Creacy had a young white baby she was tending and besides, she was too old to run. She snatched Rose by the edge of her dress, pulling her to sit down on the hearth beside her with a stern "Be quiet!" The mistress paced the floor crying and wringing her hands, pleading that she didn't know how to cook. The soldiers demanded that she cook anyway, which she did. When they finally mounted their horses to leave, all edible live stock of any kind had been slaughtered to take with them, the smokehouse had been raided, and the mules and horses which they did not need were turned loose and driven off.

She also told of how the flax was gathered and spun into linen thread which was then made into fine garments. The men would also sheer the sheep and the women would card the wool. They would then spin the wool into thread on spinning wheels before it was woven into material on a loom. Aunt Rosa showed me a simple woolen blanket that had been made by "Mammy Creacy" using this process. For hand sewing, a needle could be made from the rigid tail or wing feathers of a fowl, perhaps a turkey, and this needle would be used to hold the thread to make their homespun garments.

DAVID BROWN McGHEE (1848-1914) m. ROSE ZELIA NORMAN (1852-1943) (14)

I. Lucinda (1871-1933) m. Rev. Harvey Johnson (11)
II. Martha Ann (1872-1933) m. Thronton Cannady (8)
III. Mary Della (1875-) died in her 20's
IV. Charles Alexander (1876-1944)
V. Meta Thomas (1879-1959) m. Rev. James W. Pennington (2)
VI. Ida Mae (1882-1926)
VII. Caroline "Carrie" (1884-1931) m. John Burwell (2)
VIII. Bessie Eva (1885-1958) m. Alvin Bethea (1)
IX. Benjamin Franklin (1886-1960) m. Lula Mildred Fountain (5)
X. Blanche Hilliard (1889-1965) m. Alfred Mangum (3)

XI. Hugh Allen David (1890-1954) m. Mary Poindexter (2)
XII. Rosalie (1893-) m. Ransom Cousins
XIII. Andrew Jeffreys (1895-1979) m. Catherine Hamme (1)
XIV. Minnie Novella (1897-) m. Milton Allen (4)

ROSE ZELIA NORMAN McGHEE
(1852-1943)
(Shown feeding the chickens on the farm in Fishing Creek Township)

I. Lucinda was named for her grandmother "Big Cindy". She married a minister from Boyton, Virginia and raised most of her family there. Her descendants now live along the eastern coast north of North Carolina.

II. Martha (Matt) and her husband and children farmed on land they owned adjacent to the McGhee farm in Fishing Creek Township. Many of her children taught school.

III. Mary Della died before her father bought the farm in Fishing Creek. She is the only one of this branch of the family buried in the old family graveyard in the Huntsville Community.

IV. The master carpenter, Charles Alexander (Big Bro) never married after enduring a broken engagement. He worked for a time in Byrn Mawr, PA, but after his father died he lived with his mother until her death.

V. Meta married a minister and lived and taught school in Salisbury, North Carolina.

VI. Certainly a career woman ahead of her time, Ida taught school all over the county, and owned one of the first automobiles in the county which her brother Charlie helped her to buy. In 1916 she bought a house and lot for herself in downtown Oxford.

VII. Carrie's (Caroline) children were very young when she died.

VIII. Bessie lived in Baltimore, Maryland.

IX. Benjamin (Ben) took over the farm after his father's death, purchasing it from the other heirs in 1946. While he managed the farm for his mother he kept a detailed book of all income and each expenditure. His descendants are all well educated, many of whom have professional and advanced degrees.

X. Blanche raised her family in Oxford, where her husband was a barber.

XI. Hugh met his wife in Philadelphia where he lived and died.

XII. An entire book could be written about Ransom Cousins whose grandfather, as a slave in the early eighteen hundreds, bought himself out of slavery. He married Rosa who was a school teacher.

XIII. A veteran of World War I, Andrew Jeffreys (Jim) had attended A. & T. State College to study brickmasonry before the war. He always lived in Oxford.

XIV. Minnie and her family lived in Baltimore, Maryland. One of her sons, a lawyer, became a high public official in that state.

I. LUCINDA McGHEE (1871-1933) m. Rev. Harvey Johnson (11)

A. William David Johnson (1890-) m. Eunice Baptist (2)
1. Erma Johnson
2. Maxine Johnson

B. Joy Johnson (1892-1922) m. Horace Bullock (2)
1. Ladeva Doris Bullock (1917-)
2. Clinton Nathaniel Bullock

C. James Johnson (1894-)

D. Clara Johnson (1895-)

E. Mamie Johnson (1897-)

F. Samuel Johnson (1900-1976)

G. Rose Johnson (1902-) m. Jerry Graves (8)
1. Geraldine Graves (1929-) m. James R. Bailey (6)
a. Diane Elaine Bailey
b. Cynthia Bailey
c. Susan Bailey
d. Janice Bailey
e. Marcia Bailey
f. Elizabeth Bailey
2. Gertrude Graves (1930-) m. Wilber Johnson (4)
a. Wilber Johnson, Jr.
b. Cecelia L. Johnson
c. Karen Johnson (twin)
d. Kevin Johnson (twin)
3. William Graves (1931-) m. Ellen Adkins (2)
a. Lora Rose Graves
b. Debra Graves
4. Grace Graves (1933-) m. William Walls (2)
a. Claire Walls
b. Peter Walls
5. Diane Graves (1934-) George Dickerson (2)
a. Dawn Dickerson
b. Joi Dickerson
6. Jerry Graves, Jr. (1938-) Helen Stewart
7. Rose Marie Graves (1941-) David Chu (1)
a. Adrienne Chu
8. Brandon Graves (1942-) m. Edna Brown

Front row: Rosa, Lucinda McGhee Johnson, Ida (on knee) Theodore, Rev. Harvey Johnson, Sam.
Back row: James, Clara, William David, Joye, Mamie (with hair bow)

H. Theodore Johnson (1904-) m. Bertha ---

I. Ida Johnson (1906-1984) m. George Dawson

J. Grace Johnson (1910-) m. Melvin Tyler
   a. Howard Melvin Tyler, II

K. Charles Edward Johnson (1913-1936) m. Olivia Kersey (3)
   1. Barbara Johnson (1930-) m. 1st Willie Bullock (3)
      2nd Ellis Tony Harris (4)
      a. Jackie Bullock (1948-) m. Ben Chavis, II (3)
         (1) Michael Chavis
         (2) Paula D. Chavis
         (3) Ben Chavis, III
      b. Frederick Bullock (1949-)
      c. Tony Earl Bullock m. Laverne Tyler (2)
         (1) Shieka Bullock
         (2) Lissia Bullock
      d. Donald Curtis Harris
      e. Barbara Mae Harris
      f. Rodney Harris
      g. Pamela Harris

ca 1945
Standing L to R: Earl Goode, Dorothy Goode Hunt, Dot Cannady Goode, Steve Mason, Lelia Cannady Short, Rosetta Cannady Mason, Flossie Strinston Cannady, David Ellis Cannady, Esther Cannady Branch, Marie Cannady Mangum, Bessie Cannady Ransom, Eugene Ransom.
Seated L to R: Alf Mangum, Blanche McGhee Mangum, Martha McGhee Cannady, Benjamin F. McGhee, Rosa McGhee Cousins
On ground: Ellain McGhee Brooks, Mary Bumpass and her 3 children; Barnetta McGhee White

2. Earl Johnson (1932-) m. Giesala --- (3)
   a. Patty Olivia Johnson
   b. Michael Johnson
   c. Gary Johnson
3. Patty Olivia Johnson (1933-) m. Charles Saunders (2)
   a. Yvette Saunders
   b. Alicia Saunders

II. MARTHA McGHEE (1873-1956) m. Thornton Cannady (8)

A. Lelia Cannady (1895-1973) m. Jessie Short

B. Esther Cannady (1897-1982) m. Walter Branch (2)
   1. Bessie Marie Branch (1920-1936)
   2. Walter Earl Branch (1924-) m. Christine Fears (2)
      a. Walter Herman Branch (1956-)
      b. Christopher Cannady Branch (1961-)

C. Bessie Cannady (1901-1973) m. Eugene Ransom

D. Iverson Cannady (1902-1947) m. Lillian Poindexter (3)
   1. Joan Carolyn Cannady (1928-) (1)
      a. Cheryl Cannady (1957-) (1)
         (1) Kelli Cannady (1976-)
   2. Iverson Cannady, Jr. (1929-1977) m. Flossie L. --- (2)
      a. Charmaine Cannady (1956-)
      b. Karen Cannady (1960-) (1)
         (1) Shire Cannady (1981-)
   3. Charles Cannady (1931-)

E. Marie Cannady (1904-1970) m. Luther Mangum

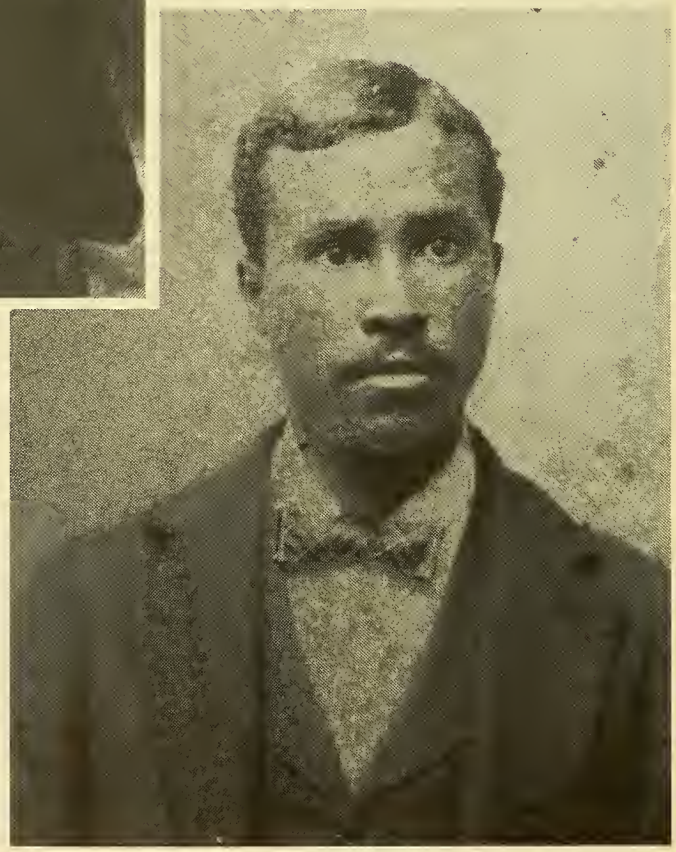
F. Mary Della Cannady (1906-) m. Earl Goode (1)
   1. Dorothy Jean Goode (1936-) m. --- Hunt

G. Rosetta Cannady (1911-) m. 1st Steven Mason
   2nd Walter Amis

H. David Ellis Cannady (1917-1980) m. 1st Flossie Stinston (2)
   2nd Helen Williams
   1. Julia Cannady (1943-) m. Paul Jones (2)
      a. Paul Jones, Jr.
      b. Rodney Jones
   2. David E. Cannady, Jr. (1948-)

Standing L to R: Lelia Cannady, Charles "Bro" McGhee, Rosetta Cannady, Martha McGhee Cannady
Seated L to R: Lula Fountain McGhee holding Marion McGhee, Marie Cannady holding Whelma Hicks.
ca 1927

ROSE NORMAN McGHEE
with her first great-grandchildren:
L to R: Clinton Bullock, Ladeva Bullock,
Walter Earl Branch (on lap), Bessye Marie Branch
ca 1924



CHARLES ALEXANDER McGHEE
(1876-1944)

V. Meta McGhee (1879-1959) m. Rev. James W. Pennington (2)

A. Bernice Pennington (1912-) m. --- Hubbard

B. Waddell Pennington (1914-1970) m. Mercedes Robinson (2)
1. Armeta Pennington (1937-) m. Robert Johnson (4)
a. Robert Johnson, Jr. (1958-)
b. Gary Johnson (1959-)
c. Lorie Johnson (1961-) m. --- Everett (1)
(1)
d. Charles Anthony Johnson (1962-)
2. Connie Pennington (1939-) m. --- McCall (2)
a. Kenneth McCall (1959-)
b. Jonathan McCall (1961-)

VI. Ida McGhee (1882-1926)

CARRIE McGHEE BURWELL

IDA McGHEE
ca 1915

VII. Caroline "Carrie" McGhee (1884-1931) m. John Burwell (2)

A. Nell Burwell (1915-) m. Carlie Moss Eaton

B. John Burwell, Jr. (1917-) m. Constance Gee (3)
1. John Burwell, III (1941-) m. (5)
a. John Burwell, IV
b.
c.
d.
e. Eric G. Burwell
2. Carrie Burwell (1942-) m. --- Mumford (5)
a. Charles Mumford
b. Phillip Mumford
c. Loretta Mumford
d. Adrelia Mumford
e. Paula Mumford
3. Rosemary Burwell (1943-) m. --- Duke (3)
a.
b.
c.

VIII. BESSIE McGHEE (1885-1958) m. Alvin Bethea (1)

A. Anna Margaret Bethea m. --- Cannon (1)
1. Ralph Cannon

Bessie with daughter Anna Margaret

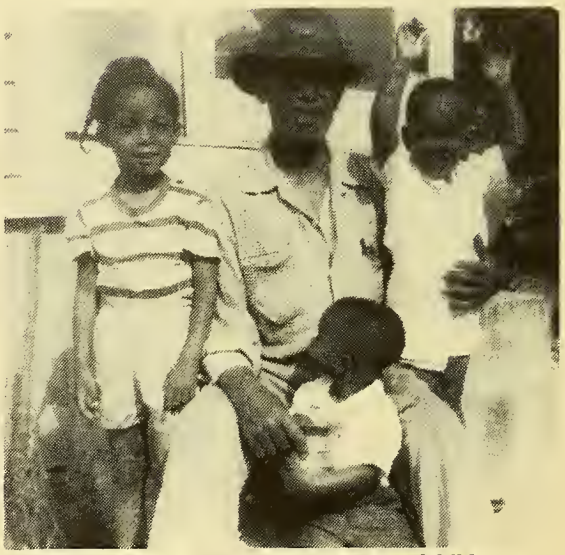
BESSIE McGHEE BETHEA (1885-1958)

IX. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN McGHEE (1885-1960) m. Lula Mildred Fountain (5)
- A. Ellain B. McGhee (1925-) m. Irving Brooks (1)
  - 1. Karen Ellain Brooks (1950-) m. Hoyt Nunnally II (2)
    - a. Hoyt Nunnally, III (1983-)
    - b. Joi Nicole Nunnally (1984-)
- B. Marion G. McGhee (1927-) m. Crawford Lane (3)
  - 1. Crawford Lane, Jr. (1954-)
  - 2. Michael Lane (1957-)
  - 3. Deborah Lane (1970-)
- C. David Griffin McGhee (1928-) m. Bessye Lawrence (1)
  - 1. Rosalyn McGhee (1959-)
- D. Barnetta Juliet McGhee (19) m. Richard V. White (2)
  - 1. Richard V. White, Jr. (1954-)
  - 2. Patricia Denise White (1956-)
- E. Benjamin F. McGhee, II (1935-) m. 1st Essie Throckmorton (1)
  2nd Lora Bledsoe (1)
  - 1. Brenda McGhee (1959-)
  - 2. Benjamin F. McGhee, III (1978-)

BENJAMIN F. McGHEE & Family
L to R: Barnetta, Dave, Lula Fountain McGhee, Ellain, Benjamin, I, Marion Benjamin II.
Picture taken in 1949

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN McGHEE
(around 1910)

LULA FOUNTAIN McGHEE, Marion, Benjamin, Ellain
(around 1927)



BENJAMIN F. McGHEE with grandchildren
Karen, Richard and Crawford

Benjamin as a Chef Cook in Richmond, Virginia during the early 1900's Shown with his kitchen staff.

X. BLANCHE HILLIARD McGHEE (1890-1965) m. Alfred J. Mangum

A. Wilber Alfred Mangum (1906-) m. Flora Crenshaw (5)
1. Jackie Mangum (1928-) m. --- (3)
a. Conrad (1953-)
b. Marier (1960-)
c. Telema (1965-)
2. Ruby Mangum (1930-) m. --- Sherman (2)
a. Dian Sherman (1941-)
b. Michel Sherman (1954-)
3. Wilber Alfred Mangum, Jr. (1932-) m. --- (2)
a. Brett Mangum (1961-)
b. Calueline Ann Mangum (1971-)
4. Eleanor Mangum (1933-) m. --- Hill (3)
a. Rickey Hill (1952-)
b. Shella Hill (1960-)
c. Serita Hill (1965-)
5. William Jacup Mangum (1940-) m. --- (2)
a. Melondie Mangum (1966-)
b. Suzan Mangum (1969-)

B. Burmah Vivian Mangum (1910-1959) m. --- Robinson

C. Ruby Mangum (1912-) m. --- Taylor (1)
1. Gene Ellis Taylor (1932-) m. --- (4)
a. Robin Ellis Taylor (1967-)
b. Windy Brodus Taylor (1973-)
c. Mark Ellis Taylor (1974-)
d. Gina Butler Taylor (1976-)

XI. HUGH A.D. McGHEE (1890-1954) m. Mary Poindexter (2)

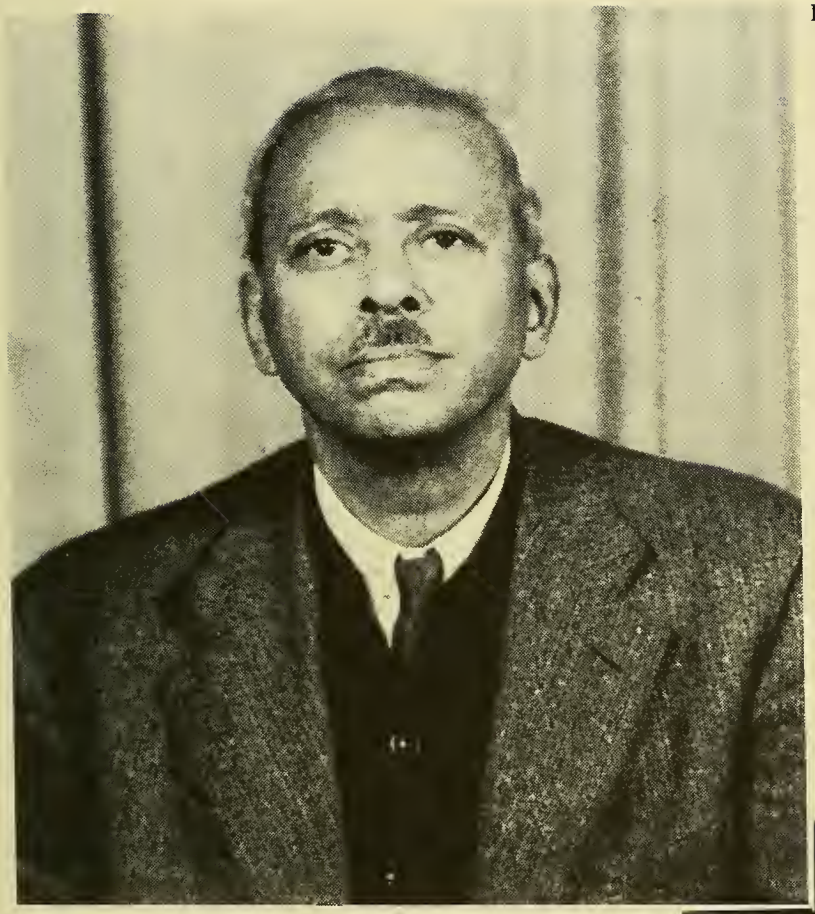
A. Hugh A.D. McGhee, Jr. (1928-) m. Alfreda Grundy (2)
1. Shera McGhee (1958-)
2. Hugh McGhee, III (1962-)

B. Sheridan P. McGhee (1932-) m. Doris Johnson (3)
1. David S. McGhee (1957-)
2. Richard A. McGhee (1960-)
3. Juanita McGhee (1964-)

XII. ROSALIE McGHEE (1893-) m. Ransom Cousins

XIII. ANDREW JEFFREYS McGHEE (1895-1979) m. Catherine Hamme (1)

A. Andrew Jeffreys McGhee, Jr. (1923-) m. Esther Ruth Jordan (2)
1. Andrew Jeffreys McGhee, III
2. Karen Winnefred McGhee (1962-)



HUGH ALLEN DAVID McGHEE
(1890-1954)

ANDREW JEFFREYS McGHEE
ca 1920

XIV. MINNIE NOVELLA McGHEE (1897-) m. Claude M. Allen (4)

A. Milton Burke Allen (1917-) m. Martha Patterson (3)
1. David Allen (1943-) m. lst Brenda L. Evans (1)
2nd Joanne Williams (1)
a. David Malcom Allen (1971-)
b. Ethan A. Allen (1978-)
2. Peter Jeffries Allen (1948-) m. Norma Wallace (1)
a. Christian Burke Sinatra Allen (1968-)
3. Milton Burke Allen, III (1954-)

B. O'Bella Sophie Allen m. James Edward Myers

C. Theresa Allen (-) m. Robert DeSherman Tutman, III (2)
1. Robert De Sherman Tutman, IV
2. Daniel L. B. Tutman m. Jerina V. Wainwright (1)
a. Doleth Melody Tutman

D. Reginald Allen (1924-1973) m. Vera P. Myers (3)
1. Reginald E. Allen (1944-) m. Elizabeth Jackson (2)
a. Reginald Marcus Allen (1973-)
b. Leslie K. Allen (1975-)
2. Paula Minnette Allen (1946-) m. Gregory Mathews
3. Claudette L. Allen (1948-) m. Leroy Costley (2)
a. Carvel Thomas Allen Costley (1966-)
b. Kyna Lenora Costley (1968-)

MINNIE McGHEE ALLEN

CHAPTER V
Notes and Sources

1. Granville County Will Book #19, pp. 199-201.
2. N.C. State Archives. *Attachments and Levies on Slaves, 1820-1824.* See Exhibit D.
3. U.S. Population Census, N.C., Granville County, 1870, Oxford Township, p. 58, dwelling #473.
4. Ibid. 1900, Salem Township, SD-5, ED-60, p. 11-A.
5. Ibid. 1910, Oxford Township, SD-5, ED-84, p. 8-A.
6. Ibid. 1880, Oxford Township, SD-2, ED-107, p. 57, dwelling #428.

EXHIBITS

A. Land deed for David McGehee, 1885.

B. Land deed for David McGhee, 1903.

C. Richard P. Taylor's petition to divide the slaves of Thomas W. Norman, showing Claiborn, Creasy, Lucinda, and Rose in the same lot. Copy of document in the North Carolina State Archives, *Miscellaneous Records of Slaves and Free Persons of Color, 1755-1871.*

D. Copy of a Fi Fa showing Thomas W. Norman as the owner of Claiborn. North Carolina State Archives, *Attachments and Levies on Slaves, 1820-1824.*

E. Newspaper report, restaurant menu, 1911, of Benjamin's work in Richmond, Virginia.

F. Sample farm book-keeping entry made by Benjamin for the year 1916-17.

John W Hays Trustee
To
David McGehee

This Deed made on this the 5 day of August A D 1885 by John W Hays Trustee for Mrs Anna C Wimbish of Granville County and State North Carolina to David McGehee of Granville County and State of North Carolina witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred Sixty five dollars in hand paid by the said David McGehee to the party of the first part the receipt of which is hereby in full acknowledged the said John W Hays Trustee hath sold conveyed and delivered and doth hereby bargain sell convey and deliver to the said David McGehee and his heirs a certain tract or parcel of land in Oxford township in Granville County and State of North Carolina containing 23 64/100 acres more or less, adjoining the lands of Lee Overby Stephen Cooper Jeff Marable Virginia Jackson Lucy Parish and others bounded as follows: Beginning at south west corner of Jeff Marables running along his line North 7 91/100 chains to a small pine thence East 3 16/100 chains to Virginia Jacksons line near a thorn bush thence N 4 75/100 chains to corner near a White Oak T R Arrets line. thence W 2 [illegible]/100 chains to a locust. thence N 2½° E 10 chains to a Gum thence W along Parish's line 6 [illegible]/100 chains to a Stake thence N 8 chains to a Post oak, thence west 4 chains & 30 links to a Stake Bullock & Roglands line, thence S along Bullock & Roglands line & the late ~~Alexander~~ Allen Hester line 26 [illegible]/100 chains to Lee Overbys corner thence East along Lee Overbys line 3 [illegible]/100 chains [illegible]

Exhibit A
John W. Hayes (Trustee for Mrs. Anna C. Wimbish) to David McGhee (1885). Deed Book #38, pp. 82-84.

Coopers line. thence along Stipper Cooper line North
4 15/100 chains to a stone said Coopers corner. thence E
3 16/100 chains to a stone said Coopers corner. thence
S along said Coopers 9 15/100 chains to Roxboro road
thence along said road easterly 3 21/100 chains to
the beginning containing 23 64/100 acres more or
less. This Deed executed by John W Hays as Trustee
in the exercise of powers conferred upon him by
the deed of F B Wimbish & wife Anna C Wimbish
dated 29th of January, A D 1884 to which reference
is hereby made. To have and to hold said
land and improvements and every thing appor
taining thereto to him the said David McGehee
and his heirs and assigns to him and his only
use and behoof. And the said John W Hays
Trustee for said Anna C Wimbish covenants
that he has a good and legal title to the above
named and described tract or parcel of land
and that he does for her warrant and de-
fend to the said David McGehee and his heirs
a good and legal title to the said tract or
parcel of land against the claim or claims
of all persons whomsoever, but assumes no
personal responsibility for the same
In testimony whereof the said John W Hays
Trustee doth hereunto set his hand and seal
the day and date above written

Witness
Thos W Cannady

John W Hays Trustee (Seal)
for Mrs Anna C Wimbish

North Carolina } Aug 5th 1885
Granville County } The execution of the foregoing Deed
by John W Hays was this day
proved by the oath and examination of Thomas
W Cannady the subscribing witness thereto
Let the same with this certificate be registered

R W Lassiter CSC

Filed for registration Aug 5th 1885 at 12 30 OC PM
T M Washington by J Dodd

A. J. Harris
to
David McGhee

State of North Carolina
Granville County.

This Deed made this 9th day of January 1903, by Andrew J. Harris, of Vance County & State of North Carolina party of the first part, to David McGhee, of Granville County and State of North Carolina party of the second part, Witnesseth: That said Andrew J. Harris, in Consideration of [illegible] Hundred & Ninety [illegible] Dollars, which paid by said McGhee: the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has bargained & sold & by these presents, does bargain sell & convey to said David McGhee & his heirs & assigns a certain tract or parcel of land in Fishing Creek Township, Granville County, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lands of A. J. Harris, Dorsey, Fishing Creek, Rock Branch Road & others, bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at a white oak Stump, corner of the Colored Orphan Asylum property & Dorsey land, running thence N. [illegible] E. [illegible] to Fishing Creek: thence down the meanders of Fishing Creek to the center of Rock Branch Road Ford: thence along the Rock Branch Road N. [illegible] W. 1.27 chs. S [illegible] W. 1.75 chs. N. 85 W 1.81 chs. N. [illegible] W. 13.76 chs, N. 77 W. 7.82 chs to a stone corner on South side of said Road, or [illegible] North of Stone in center of Road: thence N. [illegible] E 20.50 chs to beginning, containing 93 acres more or less. [illegible] intended to convey the land [illegible] by the Oxford & Coast Line Railroad & right of way. To have & to hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land & all privileges & appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said David McGhee & his heirs & assigns to his only use & behoof forever. And the said Andrew J. Harris doth covenant to & with the said David McGhee his heirs & assigns, that he is seized of said premises in fee, & has right to convey the same in fee simple, that the same are free from all incumbrances, & that he will warrant & defend the said title to the same against the claims of all persons whatsoever.

In Testimony Whereof, the said Andrew J. Harris has hereunto set his hand & seal, the day & year above written.

Andrew J. Harris (Seal)

Exhibit B
Andrew J. Harris to David McGhee (1903). Deed Book #56, pp. 377-378.

Richard P. Taylor
& others
Ex Parte
Petition to divide
Slaves
To Feby Court
1853
L. A. Paschall
S. J. R. Hicks
Thos J. Hicks
Jas Cooper
H. B. Hester
Recorded by
A. Landis Clk

In obedience to the foregoing Commission to us directed from the County Court of Granville made at November term 1853 We have proceeded to Value and divide the Negroes named in said Petition as follows

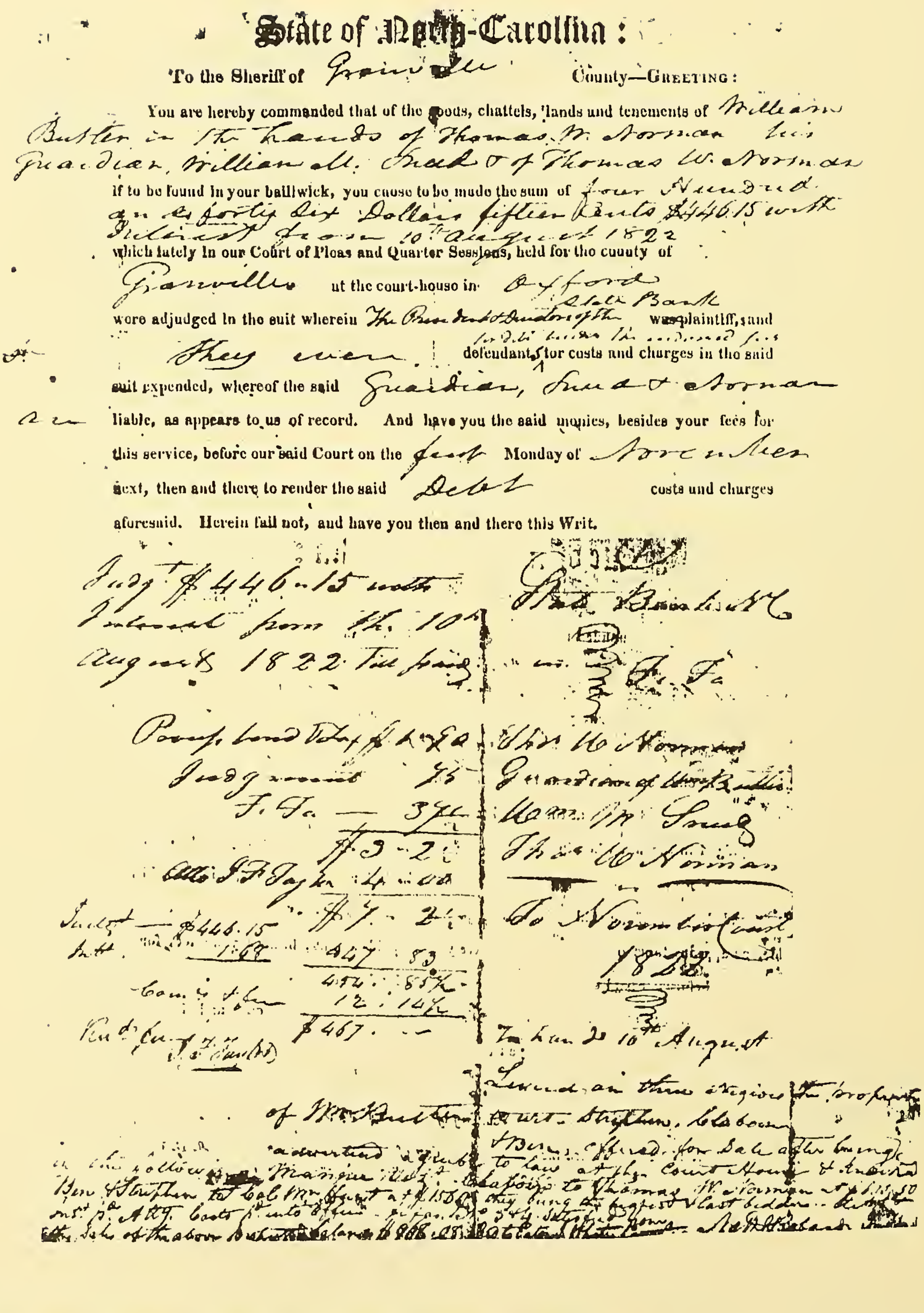
Total Value of the Negroes — $5250.00

Lot No 1. Claiborn $11 50
Creacy 1 00
Lucinda Ht 1.1.00
To receive from Sally Norman 62.50½ $1312.50½

Lot No 2 Hannah Stefield $7 00.
Ella 3 50
Laura 2 50
1500 00

To Pay Col R P Taylor $62 50
" Pay A W. Burwell 112 50
" " Laura Norman 12 50 187 50 1.312 50

Exhibit C
N.C. State Archives, *Miscellaneous Records of Slaves and Free Persons of Color, 1775-1871, Granville County (1853).*



State of North-Carolina:

To the Sheriff of Granville County—GREETING:

You are hereby commanded that of the goods, chattels, lands and tenements of William Butler in the hands of Thomas W. Norman his Guardian, William M. Snead & of Thomas W. Norman if to be found in your bailiwick, you cause to be made the sum of four Hundred and forty six Dollars fifteen Cents $446.15 with Interest from 10th August 1822 which lately in our Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, held for the county of Granville at the court-house in Oxford were adjudged in the suit wherein The President & Directors of the State Bank was plaintiff, and They were defendants for costs and charges in the said suit expended, whereof the said Guardian, Snead & Norman are liable, as appears to us of record. And have you the said monies, besides your fees for this service, before our said Court on the first Monday of November next, then and there to render the said Debt costs and charges aforesaid. Herein fail not, and have you then and there this Writ.

Judgt $446.15 with Interest from the 10th August 1822 Till paid

State Bank N.C. vs. Fi. Fa.

Thos W. Norman Guardian of Wm Butler, Wm M. Snead, Thos W. Norman

To November Court 1822

[illegible]

Issued 10th August

Levied on three Negroes the property of Wm Butler, to wit: Stephen, Claborn & Ben, offered for Sale after being advertised agreeable to law at the Court House ... [illegible]

Exhibit D
N.C. State Archives, *Attachments and Levies on Slaves, 1820-1824, Granville County* (1822).

RICHMOND, VA.

Dinner.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1911.

Open House at Club.

The annual buffet luncheon of the Business Men's Club, held yesterday in honor of the birthday of General Robert E. Lee, was largely attended by members of the club and their guests, several hundred men visiting the club rooms between the hours of 12 and 4 P. M. In the absence of President Sills, who is confined to his home by sickness, a committee from the board of directors received visitors, aiding Secretary Walford in the duties of host. The affair was of an informal character and was greatly enjoyed.

Grape Fruit Suprême, 50

Lobster Cocktail, 50 — Crab Flake Cocktail, 50

Little Neck Clams on Half Shell, 25

Soups Clam Chowder, Manhattan, 25 40

Consommé Celestine, 25 40 — Clear Green Turtle, Spécial, 40 75

(Special Cold) Essence of Tomato, cup, 25 — Strained Gumbo, cup, 25

Chicken Broth, cup, 25 — Essence of Celery, cup, 25 — Consommé, cup, 25

Chicken with Rice, 30 50 — Clam Broth, Per Cup, 25 — Mock Turtle au Madère, 25 40

Consomme Vermicelli, 25 40 — Consomme Julienne, 25 40 — Consommé with Rice, 25 40

Purée of Tomato, aux Croutons, 25 40

Relishes Beluga Caviar 1 00 — Russian Caviar 50 — Canapé Russian Caviar 30 50

Celery, 25 40 — Spring Onions, 25 — Radishes, 15 — Queen Olives, 25

Stuffed Olives, 30 — Pimento Olives, 30 — Sardines, 30 50 — Stuffed Mangoes, 25

Stuffed Pickled Peppers, 30 50 — Pin-Money Pickles, 25 — White Onions, 15

Fish Lobster Newburg, 1 25 — Boiled Sea Trout, Hollandaise, 40 75

Filet of Spanish Mackerel à la Duglère, 40 75 — Pomme Persillade

Broiled Bluefish, 40 75 — Soft Shell Crabs, 50 75

Fried Perch, 35 50 — Weakfish, 35 60 — Pantish, 35 60

Entrees

Stuffed Breast of Veal with Spinach, 50 90

Sweetbread Cutlet with Asparagus Tips, 50 90

Baby Lamb Chops with French String Beans (2) 60—(4) 1 10

Chicken Fricassée à l'Americaine, 70 1 25

Larded Sirloin of Beef, Jefferson, 70 1 25

Broiled Guinea Hen, Southern Style, 80 1 50

Smothered Virginia Chicken with Smithfield Bacon, 1 00

Roasts Prime Ribs of Beef au jus, 40 75 — Spring Lamb, Mint Sauce, 40 75

Broiled Guinea Hen, 80 1 50 — Broiled Chicken, whole, 1 25—half 65

Jumbo Squab on Toast, 90

Cold Roast Chicken, whole, 1 50—half, 75 Stuffed Deviled Crabs, 35 50 Roast Beef 40 75

Ham 30 50 Lamb 50 80 Tongue 30 50 Smithfield Ham 40 75 Pâté de Foie Gras 80

Imported Frankfurter Sausage, 40 — Home Made Pressed Corned Beef, 30 50

Vegetables California Asparagus 60 — New Buttered Beets, 20

New Corn on Cob, 25 40 — Fresh Lima Beans, 50 — Summer Squash, 20 35

Boiled Bermuda Potatoes, 20 — Wax Beans, 30 — Spinach with Egg, 20 35

French Asparagus, 1 00 — German Asparagus, 1 25 — Mashed Potatoes, 20 — Egg Plant, 20 35

Stewed Tomatoes, 30 — Peas, 30 — Succotash, 30 — Boiled Rice, 30 — Creamed Corn, 30

French Peas, 40 — Macaroni or Spaghetti in Cream or with Tomatoes, 25—au gratin, 40

Salads Grape Fruit Salad, 40 60 — Cold Tomato en Surprise, Richelieu (1) 30

Anchovy, 75 — Lobster, 75 1 25 — Shrimp, 40 60 — Chicken, 50 80

Potato, 25 40 — Lettuce, 25 40 — Romaine, 30 50

Lettuce and Tomato Salad, 25 40 — Sliced Tomatoes, 25 40 — Cold Asparagus, 60

Watercress, 25 40 — Sliced Cucumbers, 25 40 — Pickled Beets, 20

Pastry Rice Soufflé Pudding, Sercial Sauce, 20 — Cup Custard, 20

Peach Melba, 50 — Vanilla Croquette, Marasquin, 30 — Assorted Eclairs, 25

Fresh Peach Shortcake 50

Rhine Wine Jelly, Whipped Cream 30 — Benedictine Jelly, Whipped Cream 30

Green Apple Pie, 20 — Lemon Méringue Pie, 20

Assorted Cake, 25 — Fruit Cake, 25 — Pound Cake, 20 — Fancy Macaroons, 25

Lady Fingers, 20 — Charlotte Russe, 30 — Meringue Glacé, 30

Ice Cream Nesselrode Pudding, 30 Café Parfait, 30 Pecan Ice Cream 30

Fresh Peach Ice Cream 30 Fresh Raspberry Ice Cream 30 Raspberry Ice 20

Vanilla Ice Cream, Hot Chocolate Sauce, 30

Vanilla 25 Chocolate 25 Tutti Frutti 30 Coffee 25 Mixed (two kinds) 30 Neapolitan 30

Lalla Rookh Punch, 30 Punch, au Kirsch, 25 Roman Punch, 25 Pineapple Sherbet, 20

Lemon Sherbet, 20 Brandy Punch, 25 Benedictine Punch, 25 Punch au Marasquin, 25

Cheese Roquefort, 25 — Philadelphia Cream, 25 — Neufchâtel, 25 — Edam, 25

Individual Gorgonzola, 30 — Stilton, 30 — Jefferson, 25 — American, 20 — Swiss, 20

Fruit Peaches with Cream, 30 50 Cantaloupe, 25 40 Watermelon 25 40 Plums, 15 25

Apples, 15 25 Bananas, 20 Oranges, 15 25 Bartlett Pears, 15 25 Grape Fruit, 30 50

Sliced Pineapple, 25 — Layer Raisins, 20 — Mixed Nuts, 25

Preserves, Etc. California Fruit, in Syrup, 25 — Brandy Peaches, 50

Brandy Figs, 50 — Bar-le-Duc, 25 40 — Green Gage Plums, 25 — Strained Honey, 20

Comb Honey, 20 — Crystallized Ginger, 15 25 — Currant Jelly, 25 — Guava Jelly, 25

Fruit Preserves and Jams, 25 — Orange or Grape-Fruit Marmalade, 25

Coffee, Tea, Etc. Coffee, Per Pot, 25 — Individual Coffee, 15 — Demi Tasse, 10

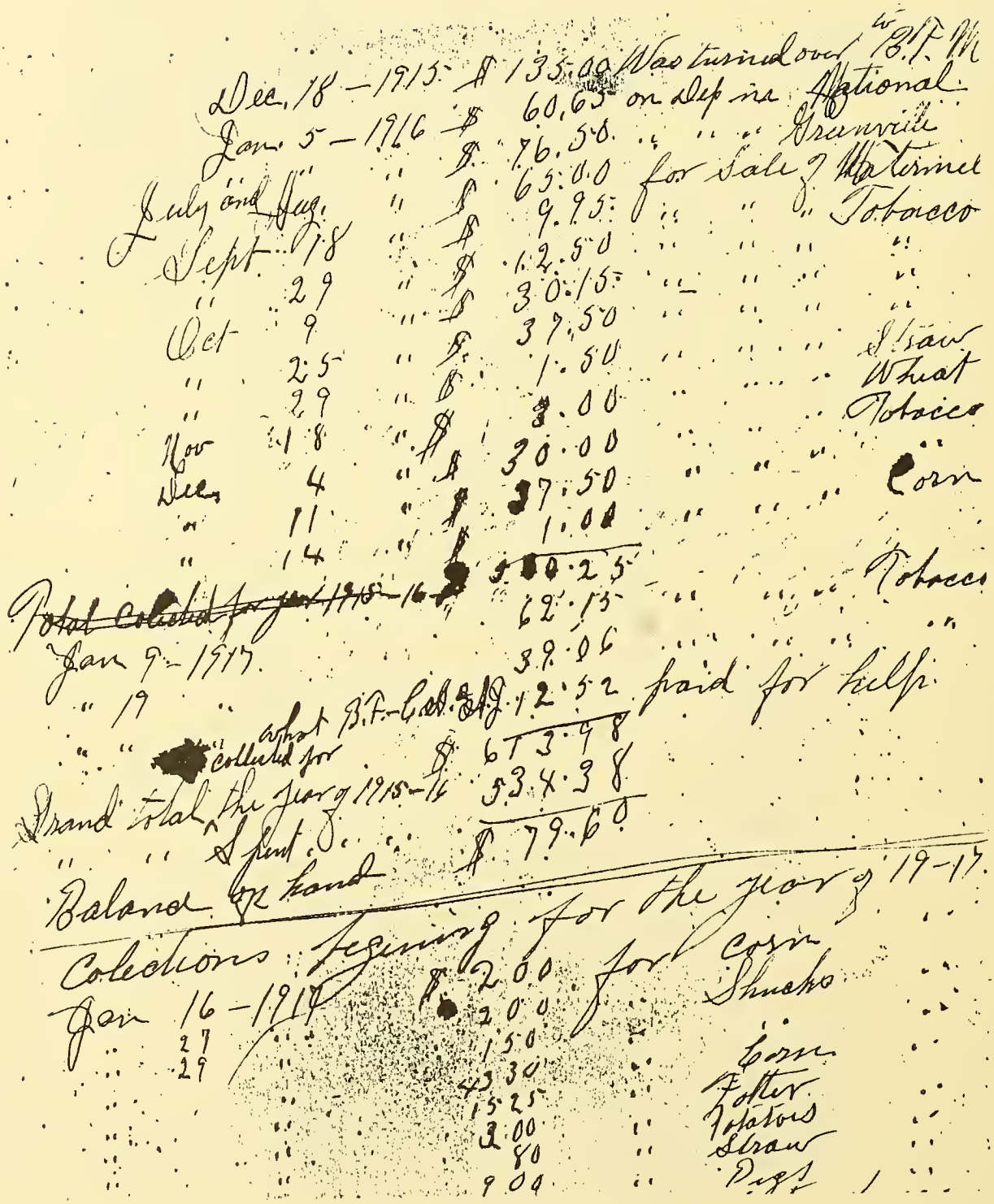
Tea, Per Pot, 25 — Individual Tea, 15 — Chocolate, Per Pot, 25 — Small Pot Chocolate, 15

Cream, per Glass, 20 — Milk, per Glass, 10 — Iced Tea, per Glass, 15

Meals Served in Rooms 10c. Extra per Portion or Half Portion

Half Portions Served to One Person Only.

GUESTS: PLEASE WRITE ORDERS PLAINLY TO AVOID MISTAKES.



Sample of bookkeeping entries made by Ben for the year 1916-17.

CHAPTER VI

ISABELLA

The Merger of Two Clans

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor---
Bare.

"Mother to Son"
Langston Hughes

CHAPTER VI

ISABELLA McGHEE HICKS
1853-1934

Isabella was the fifth child and the third daughter of this family. She was little more than a child when she became the first McGhee to marry one of the Hicks. (Frank married Ida Hicks in 1871.) Married life started out with Isaac "Ike" working in a tobacco factory which he soon gave up to turn his attention and efforts to farming. The two of them had eleven children, ten of whom lived to be adults. All of Isabella's life was spent in the Huntsville Community with her husband, and after his death in the early 1900's she lived with first one child and then the other, finally settling down with her third son, Will, and his wife, Mary Jane Fountain. Today, her descendants have remained an extended, close knit family, many of whom still live in the same community.

The life of Isabella was traced through each of the census which counted Blacks by name. In 1870 she was a bride living next door to her mother and father. By 1880 Ike was farming and the family had moved next door to Frank and his third wife Annie. 1900 found the family complete, Ike still engaged in farming. Neither the 1880 nor the 1900 census shows that he owned the farm on which he lived, even though a deed to Isabella was unearthed showing that she had purchased 7½ acres in 1874. Charlie Hicks, Ike's father, 80 years old and widowed, was living with the family in 1900.

Many, many hours were spent searching the microfilm copy of the 1910 Census for Isabella without success. It was known that Ike had died by that time. The children who were not married were living with each other. Jessie, little Ike, and Willie, all unmarried were living with their oldest sister Carrie Royster. Where ever Isabella was living, she had with her the two youngest children; Gary, who was fifteen years old and Cam, who was thirteen years old. More importantly, there was the possibility that Grandmama Caroline was with her. It is known that after Granddaddy Bob died, Caroline lived with her daughter Isabella. It was hoped that when the enumeration of this family unit was found it would help pinpoint more accurately the year that Caroline had died. It is quite probable that this family unit had either moved to another township (unlikely) or that they were somehow missed in the 1910 headcount.

Many of her grandchildren remember Isabella well and have delightful stories to tell as snippets of memories are brought forth. Cynthia remembered that she looked like Aunt Fannie Poole, in that she was fair skinned with sandy hair. She recalled the last time that Isabella visited her oldest child Charlie. Charlie was farming on the home place and was returning from putting the mules in the stable for the evening when he happened to look down the road and saw his mother walking up the hill toward his door. *"The last time she was over here... she came up the old road and she give out coming up that hill...and my daddy had to go and get her where she was sitting beside the road. We were sitting down getting ready to have supper and my father brought her on to the house. She always enjoyed coming down and having supper with us... That was the last time she ever was over here."*

Son Willie, who was a carpenter by trade, built his mama a house after his father died and before Will himself was married. Isabella lived with him, his wife and children until the day she died and was subsequently buried in the old family graveyard.

Will's children remember their grandmother. They especially remember her baked potatoes and ash cakes. She would pull the hot coals and ashes toward the front of the hearth of the fireplace, then place her cakes on the piping hot stones to cook.

Whelma: *"I remember one time that grandmama tied me to a chair. I was no more than a toddler and had been sick. She was baby-setting me while Mama was teaching school. Because I was sick she couldn't take me with her and she was afraid I would wander away. She had to go down into the woods to gather some leaves and herbs to make me a tea so I would feel better. She tied me in the chair and said, 'Lady,' (she always called me that) 'you stay here until I come back.' "*

Willie Shaw, Jr. remembers that she was embalmed at home after she died. It must have made quite an impression on him. He and Carnell remember that it was their grandmama who taught them their prayers - *"Now I lay me down to sleep. . ."*

The occupations that Isabella's children chose for themselves are closely tied into the Hicks' tradition of working with ones hands. Those who did not farm were carpenters. Jack Hicks, big Ike's brother, was a skilled, master carpenter and the blue print man of the old days. He taught all of his many nephews and other boys around who wanted to learn and were not related, the craft of carpentry. Many in that generation and later ones made their livelihood by following that profession.

I. Charlie farmed all his life.

II. Carrie's husband worked for the railroad and was often away. Among her descendants are a university professor and a Judge, who loves hunting and fishing at least as much as he loves law.

III. Bell married a farmer and her sons became bricklayers and master masons.

IV. Henrietta's husband, Waverly, was a barber whose customers came from great distances to his shop in the Stovall area where they lived. They did not have children.

V. Melissia's husband worked for an undertaker and moved the family to Greensboro. Among her descendants are teachers, owners of businesses and social workers.

VI. Jessie's and Austin Marrows's only child died at an early age.

VII. Little Ike and his wife had two children who died young.

VIII. Will, who as a carpenter, built a house for himself and his mama, later married a school teacher. Their sons were career military men and the daughter taught school.
Nobody who attended Will's funeral can forget the day he was buried. It was the same day that President John F. Kennedy was shot. The funeral cortege was on its way to the church when the news of the murder was carried over the radio. Many of the members of this family depended on Will and his wife, Mary, sometimes to the point of taking advantage of their accommodating natures.

IX. Gary lived in the town of Oxford and became a very good cabinet maker. He was noted for the fine cedar chests he would make and sell.

X. The baby of the family, Cam, was known as the teller of tall tales. He and his brother, Gary, kept audiences entertained for hours with their banter. One of their more well-known jokes indirectly involved the statue of the Confederate Soldier which stood for many years in the center of town.

Gary: *Hey! I just saw a mosquito on top of the statue!*

Cam: *Oh, that's nothing, I just saw him when he winked his eye.*

Cam always had some kind of job to make money which he carried with him wrapped in a handkerchief. When he stopped to talk with someone, he would pull out this handkerchief and show his money and brag about how much he had. Some say that he always carried a roll of money; others say that it was a roll of play money with some authentic bills surrounding it. Be that as it may, he was robbed and killed one night on his way home in the Salem Township. Somebody killed him and propped him up beside a tree where he was later found. His murderer is still free.

ISABELLA McGHEE (1853-1934) m. Isaac "Ike" Hicks (10)

I. Charlie Hicks (1870-1951) m. Bertha Kerney (7)

II. Caroline "Carrie" Hicks (1872-1953) m. George Royster (4)

III. Rosa Bell Hicks (1874-1953) m. Dave Tyler (10)

IV. Henrietta Hicks (1877-1956) m. Waverly Hicks

V. Melissia Hicks (1880-1959) m. Clem Roberts (2)

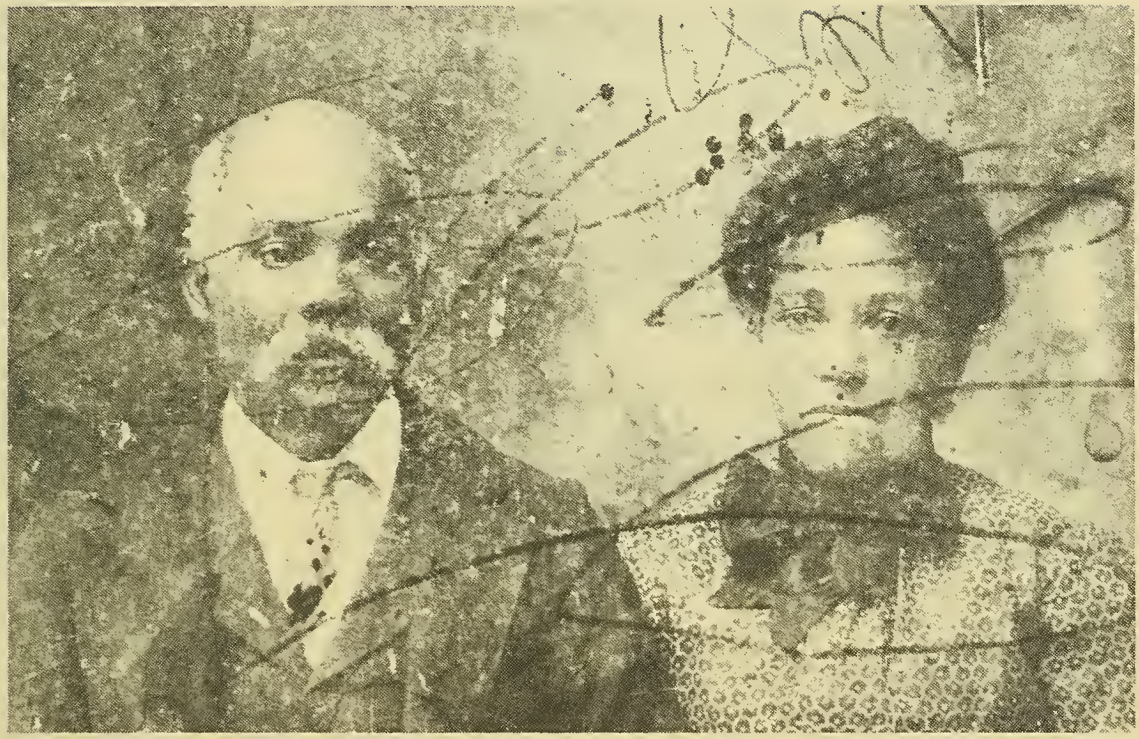
VI. Jessie Hicks (1883-1912) m. Austin Marrow (1)

VII. Isaac Hicks, Jr. (1886-1936) m. Iola Christmas (1)

VIII. Willie Hicks (1890-1963) m. Mary Jane Fountain (3)

IX. Windom Gary Hicks (1895-1944) m. Eula Mae Crews (3)

X. George Cameron Hicks (1897-1946) m. Eliza Belle Taylor (1)



ISAAC HICKS & ISABELLA McGHEE HICKS

I. CHARLIE HICKS (1870-1951) m. Bertha Kerney (7)

A. Sam Hicks (1898-1980) m. Irene West (2)
1. Susie Beatrice Hicks (-) died around 7 years of age
2. Seth Leon Hicks (-) m. 1st June --- (1)
2nd Bunny --- (2)
a. Seth Leon Hicks, Jr. m. Gloria Bullock (1)
(1) Seth Leon Hicks, III
b. Todd Hicks
c. Kimberly Hicks

B. Annie Olivia Hicks (1899-1976) m. Tommy Crosby

C. Waverly Hicks (1903-1947) m. Lessie Thorpe (3)
1. Waverly B. Hicks, Jr. (1926-) m. Mallie Black (1)
a. Justine Hicks (1957-)
2. Samuel Eugene Hicks (1927-1946)

3. Annie Louise Hicks (1929-) m. 1st Casper Cooper (2)
   2nd Cleveland Howell (1)
   a. Bobbie Jean Cooper (1947-) m. Billy Owens (6)
      (1) Tammy Lynn Cooper (1964-)
      (2)
      (3)
      (4)
      (5)
      (6) Collin A. Ownes (1983-)
   b. Lessie Valenda Cooper (1948-) m. Allen Ward (2)
      (1) LaMont Ward
      (2) LaNoir Ward
   c. Perry Howell (1953-) m. Lisa ---

D. Charlie Hicks, Jr. (1905-1966) m. Carrie Bell Henryhand

E. Bertha Bell Hicks (1908-) m. Watkins Allen (1)
1. Vinelle Allen (1932-) m. Edmond Petrus (4)
   a. Edward Petrus, Jr. (1957-)
   b. Hans Petrus
   c. Beverly Petrus
   d. Sandra Petrus (1963-)

F. Cynthia Hicks (1911-) m. David Gooch (1)
1. Deloris Gooch (1941-) m. Theodore Nesbitt

G. George Hicks (1917-) m. Virginia Bridges (3)
1. Ronald Hicks (1948-) m. Vann Hall (2)
   a. Ronald Hicks, Jr. (1978-)
   b. Alisa Hicks (1982-)
2. Larry Hicks (1950-) m. Millie Hannon
3. Jelletta Ann Hicks (1953-) m. Reginald Sealy (2)
   a. Amanda V. Sealy (1980-)
   b. boy (1983-)

II. CAROLINE HICKS (1872-1953) m. George Royster (4)

A. Georgia Royster (1896-) m. William L. Greene (4)
1. William Lawrence Green, Jr. (died young)
2. John Greene (1929-) m. Nellie Manley (2)
   a. William Lawrence Greene, III
   b. Michael Greene
3. George Greene (1930-) m. Ruby Powell (4)
   a. George Greene, Jr. (1959-)
   b. Ava Greene (1962-)
   c. Willa-Jo Greene (1965-)
   d. Ruby Karen Greene (1972-)
4. Rolland Greene (1933-) m. 1st Mary Lee --- (2)
   2nd Jackie --- (3)
   a. Vera Greene
   b. Georgia Frances Greene
   c. Rolland Greene, Jr.
   d. Keith Greene (1972-) twin to Kelly
   e. Kelly Greene (1972-) twin to Keith

GEORGIA ROYSTER GREENE
with son William

B. Joseph Royster (1900-) died young

C. Della Royster (1901-1978) m. Lewis Royster (3)
1. Lewis Royster (-) m. Mable
2. William "Crack" Royster m. Gwendolyn --- (3)
   a. Deborah Royster m. --- (1)
      (1)
   b. William Royster
   c. Sherry Royster m. --- (1)
      (1)
3. Waverly Royster

D. Annie Lee Royster (1903-) m. Carl Burwell (3)
1. Rose Marie Burwell (-) m. Major
2. Carolyn Burwell (1928-) m. Edward McCurry (3)
   a. Ronald McCurry (1952-) m. Patricia Yeager
   b. Donna McCurry (1954-) m. Byron Jackson
   c. Linda McCurry (1957-)
3. Carl Phillip Burwell, Jr. (1930-) m. Frances William (3)
   a. Carl Phillip Burwell, III
   b. Jeffrey Burwell
   c. Lisa Burwell

III. ROSA BELL HICKS (1874-1953) m. Dave Tyler (10)

A. Mittie L. Tyler (1894-1930) m. Jessie Short (1)
1. Lincoln Short

B. Roy Tyler (1895-1974) m. Bessie Brandon (4)
1. Willard Tyler (1916-) m. Charles Bias (2)
a. Joyce Bias (1940-) m. Robert Fitzgerald
b. Clarice Bias (1941-) m. Clarence Mitchell (2)
(1) Lisa Mitchell
(2) Clarence Mitchell, Jr.
2. Josephine Tyler (1918-) m. 1st Walter Taylor
2nd Leon Green (2)
3. Juanita Tyler (1921-) m. 1st James Williams (1)
2nd Howell Kyles (2)
a. Yvette Williams (1941-) m. Sam Goodloe (1)
(1) Samuel Goodloe, III (1964-)
b. Linda Kyles (1955-) m. Tony Hawley (1)
(1) Brent Hawley
c. Shawn Kyles (1961-) m. Luz Vasquez (1)
(1) Shawna Kyles (1983-)
4. Bermadine Tyler (1923-) m. 1st Alvin Johnson (1)
2nd John Penix (3)
3rd Melvin Forest (1)
a. Laverne Johnson (1945-) m. --- Petway (1)
(1) Brandi Petway (1982-)
b. Andre Renix (-) m. --- (3)
(1)
(2)
(3)
c. Leroy Penix
d. Lael Penix
e. Shele Forest (1960-)

C. Robert Tyler (1897-1931)

D. David Tyler (1899-) m. Mae Ella Barbitt

E. McDonald Tyler (1903-1973) m. Cornelia --- (1)
1. Maxine Tyler (-)

F. Melvin Tyler (1905-1975) m. Grace Johnson
1. Howard Melvin Tyler, II (1951-)

G. Herman Tyler (1906-) m. Annice Dawes (8)
1. Lee McCoy Tyler (1927-) m. Eula Mae Ragland (5)
a. Lee M. Tyler, Jr. (1946-) m. Mary A. Rogers (2)
(1)Angela Tyler
(2) Jeffrey Tyler
b. Joseph Alex Tyler (1947-) m. Bertina Glover (2)
(1) Keshia Tyler
(2) Joseph Tyler, Jr.
c. Cecil Tyler (1949-) m. Joyce Puryear (2)
(1) Tanya Tyler
(2)
d. Howard Melvin Tyler (1951-) m. Rita Jordan (1)
(1) Howard Melvin Tyler, III

e. Arnold Tyler (1958-) m. --- (1)
(1)
2. Herman Tyler, Jr. (1928-)
3. Douglass Tyler (1930-) m. Mamie Parker (2)
a. Stanley Trent Tyler
b. Carol Lynell Tyler
4. Annice Jean Tyler (1934-) m. Connie Glover (3)
a. Glenice Glover m. James Holmes (1)
(1) Christopher Holmes
b. Avis Glover m. Phillip Cousin (1)
(1) Phillip Cousin, III
c. Constance Glover m. Murphy Fountain
5. Kermit Tyler (1936-)
6. Billy Tyler (1942-) m. Annie Hunt (2)
a. Darnell Bernard Tyler (1963-)
b. Michael Alonzo Tyler (1967-)
7. Audrey Tyler (1948-)
8. Diane Tyler (1949-) m. Robert Taylor (1)
a. Robert Taylor, Jr. (1968-)

H. Brooks Tyler (1908-1982) m. Valerie Clemmons (1)
1. Tammy Tyler (1957-)

I. Harold Tyler (1910-1964) m. Elizabeth Wallace (2)
1. Marjorie Tyler (1931-) m. Willie Bullock (1)
a. Willie Bullock, Jr. (1949-) m. Linda Perry (2)
(1) Kimberly Deloris Bullock (1971-)
(2) Willie Decaris Bullock (1973-)
2. Harold Tyler, Jr. (1932-) m. Joyce Naylor (6)
a. Deloris Maxine Tyler (1953-) m. Harold Armstead (1)
(1) Nicole Armstead
b. Harold Tyler, III (-) --- (1)
(1) Joy Tyler (1973-)
c. Roy Tyler (-) m. Wanda Kinyou (2)
(1) Shawn Tyler
(2) Takisha Tyler
d. Carolyn Tyler (1956-) m. Ellis Crews (1)
(1) Ellis Crews, Jr. (1977-)
e. Laverne Tyler (1954-) m. Tony Bullock (2)
(1) Ashekia Bullock
(2) Rashid Bullock
f. George Tyler (-) m. Marietta Blackwell (1)
(1) George Tyler, Jr.

J. Ruby Tyler (1913-) m. John Brannon

IV. HENRIETTA HICKS (1877-1956) m. Waverly Hicks

V. MELISSIA HICKS (1880-1959) m. Clem Roberts (2)

A. Bernice Roberts (1907-) m. Charles Ingram (3)
1. Audrey Ingram (1921-) m. Ed Fairley (1)
a. Adrian Rene Fairley (1955-) m. Eric McCaskell (1)
(1) Fairley Ingram McCaskell (1981-)

MELISSA HICKS ROBERTS
(1889-1959)
picture taken 1946

JESSIE HICKS (1883-1912)
with husband Austin Marrow
(Had one daugher who died young)

2. Lavonia Ingram (1930-) m. F.V. "Pete" Allison (2)
   a. Michell Allison (1957-) m. Curtis Davis
   b. F.V. Allison, III (1961-)
3. Carolyn Ingram (1935-) m. Theodore Thorton (3)
   a. Susan Lynette Thorton (1959-)
   b. Gail Monje Thorton (1960-)
   c. Theodore Derek Thorton (1961-)

B. Isabella Ruth Roberts (1909-) m. James Hawkins

VII. ISAAC HICKS, JR. (1886-1936) m. Iola Christmas (2)

A. Iola Hicks (1920-) died young

B. a boy who died as a baby

VIII. WILLIE HICKS (1890-1963) m. Mary Jane Fountain (3)

A. Willie Shaw Hicks, Jr. (1926-)

B. Whelma Hicks (1928-) m. Burnice Burton (2)
   1. Bernadette Burton (1959-) m. Willie Scott
   2. Matilda Burton (1963-)

Mrs. Griffin Fountain
announces the marriage of her daughter
Mary Jane
to
Mr. William Hicks
July the twenty-sixth
nineteen hundred and twenty-three
Oxford, North Carolina

At Home
after July twenty-sixth
Goshen Street
Oxford, N. C.

C. Carnell Hicks (1930-) m. Catherine Hawkins (2)
1. Bobbydyne V. Hicks (1949-) m. Fred McMillan (3)
a. Tonya Levette McMillan (1971-)
b. Tirea M. McMillan (1978-)
c. Tanika Nikole McMillan (1980-)
2. Carlene D. Hicks (1958-) m. Clifford Tatum, Jr. (2)
a. Clifford Carnell Tatum (1979-)
b. Paul Ulrick Tatum (1983-)

IX. WINDOM GARY HICKS (1895-1944) m. Eula Mae Crews (3)

A. James Hicks (1920-) m. Hattie ---

B. Carl Hicks (-) m. Audrey Day (1)
1. Tommy Hicks

C. Lena Hicks (-) m. --- Jones

X. GEORGE CAMERON HICKS (1897-1946) m. Eliza Taylor (1)

A. Gwendolyn Hicks (1933-) m. Dannie B. Gilchrist (6)
1. Jerry Hicks (1951-) m. Betty --- (2)
a. Rachael Hicks (1968-)
b. Jonathan Hicks (1970-)
2. Dannie B. Gilchrist, Jr. (1954-)
3. Douglas Gilchrist (1957-)
4. William Gilchrist (1958-)
5. Taylor George Gilchrist (1960-)
6. Gwendolyn Eliza Gilchrist (1963-)

GEORGE CAMERON HICKS
(1897-1946)
ca 1917

H. C. Herndon
To
Isabella Hicks

This indenture made and entered into this the 15th day of June A.D. 1874. between Henry C. Herndon of the first part and Isabella Hicks of the second part both of the County of Granville and State of North Carolina, Witnesseth:

That for and in consideration of the sum of eighty dollars to the said H. C. Herndon paid by the said Isabella Hicks, I have this day sold, granted, aliened and conveyed, and by these presents doth sell, grant alien and convey unto the said Isabella Hicks and her heirs, administrators and executors a certain lot or parcel of land being and lying in the County of Granville, situated on the Goshen road leading from Oxford to Goshen, and bounded as follows, Begining on a stake Robert Norwood's corner, running North 5-3d West seven chains to a stake, then North 5-2d East eleven chains and sixty five links to the Goshen road. then down said road South 35-d East 6 chains and seventy five links to a stake, Robert Norwood's corner, then South 5-2d West 10 chains and fifteen links to the begining, containing seven and a half acres more or lep. To have and to hold the same unto the said Isabella Hicks her heirs, executors and administrators forever.

In witnep whereof, the said H C. Herndon has hereunto set his hand and seal, this the day and date above written.

Test:
D. A. Hunt,
W. B. Horner

Henry C Herndon (seal)

Henry C. Herndon to Isabella Hicks (1874) Deed Book #28, p. 497.

CHAPTER VII

FREDERICK

The Woodsman Leaves the Land

I've been scarred and battered.
My hopes the wind done scattered.
Snow has friz me, sun has baked me.
looks like between 'em
They done tried to make me
Stop laughin', stop lovin', stop livin'---
But I don't care!
I'm still here!

"Still Here"
Langston Hughes

CHAPTER VII

FREDERICK McGHEE
1856-1939

Standing just a little over five feet in height, Frederick was not only short but small in stature as well. His daughter Freddie described him as a "little small thing". His great-grandchildren remember that in his later years he was a natty dresser who stayed "clean" with vest and tie. He had a ruddy, reddish complexion and freckles, with reddish hair and a mustache. He was known as "Fed" not "Fred", probably because some child just learning to talk could not manage the "r" in the name.

Fed married Fannie Hicks in 1876 and together they reared ten children in their little neighborhood called McGehee-Town. The descendants of these ten children have been more difficult to trace than any of the others of Bob and Caroline's descendants. Of all of Fed's children, only Lizzie's (Dawes) and Mollie's (Young) descendants remained in the county. Living in Henderson was daughter Freddie (Fields) whose mind was still sharp and clear after 96 years on this earth. It was she who gave me enough information and the clues I needed to continue to search for a deed for land and the will of Granddaddy Bob, both of which were eventually found.

All of the brothers were hunters and they often hunted together. Fed was considered the best shot of the lot. His reputation for being able to drop any bird or rabbit which came into his sight was a wide spread and well earned one. Even after he moved to Henderson, he would come back to the Huntsville area in the fall of the year to go hunting with his buddies. A granddaughter remembered those cold fall mornings when Fed would arise, wash his face in the icy water, slick his hair down with some of the same, then head for the woods. There was no place where he was happier.

In the early days, Fed was considered the business man of the family. It was said that he could correctly add figures in his head quicker than one could add using paper and pencil. He worshipped his father whom he often went to for advice.

It is interesting and thought provoking that it was Fed who brought forth his father's will to be proved in 1912, and not his brother David who was named as the sole executor. David was not living in the area at the time, having bought his own farm in the Fishing Creek area some time earlier. One explanation for the fact that Fed took charge could be that David could have been out of the state at that time seeing doctors about his illness. The will gave Fed the bottom land, so it is safe to assume that this was the land he was already farming at the time. The date that the will was signed and the date that it was proved were very helpful in my being more accurate about the time Bob and then Caroline died.

It was not long after the will was proved in 1912 that Fed's little home burned to the ground. At some time later still he moved to Henderson and lived across the street from his daughter Freddie, who had moved there with her husband in 1913. Inevitably, time took its toll and Fed and Fannie became old and feeble. They spent their last years living mostly with daughter Lizzie and her husband, Henry Dawes, but his death certificate is in Vance County. He was one of the last McGhees to be buried in the old family graveyard.

FREDERICK McGHEE (1856-1939) m. Fannie Hicks (10)

I. Phyllis McGhee (1875-) m. James Kelly (3)

II. Hettie McGhee (1878-) m. Doc Lewis (6)

III. Lizzie McGhee (1879-1970) m. Henry Dawes (9)

IV. Alexander McGhee (1881-1954) m. Bell Malone (6)

V. Mollie McGhee (1884-1921) m. Alfred Young (4)

VI. Julia McGhee (1886-) m. Hamme Walter (3)

VII. Freddie McGhee (1888-) m. Sam Fields (5)

VIII. Henry McGhee (1890-) m. Pocahantas Royster (3)

IX. Louisa (Essie) McGhee (1893-) died young from influenza

X. Hervy McGhee (1896-) m. Jessie Oakley (1)

I. PHYLLIS McGHEE (1875-) m. James Kelly (3)

James Kelly took his family to live in Delaware, where Phyllis died.

A. Helen Kelly (unknown) m. Jamison unknown

B. Fannie Kelly (unknown)

C. Hattie Kelly (unknown) m. Tom Amos (1)
1. Unknown

II. HETTIE McGHEE (1878-) m. Doc Lewis (6)

A. Fred Lewis (unknown)

B. Parthenia Lewis (unknown)

C. Walter Lewis (unknown)

D. Beatrice Lewis (unknown)

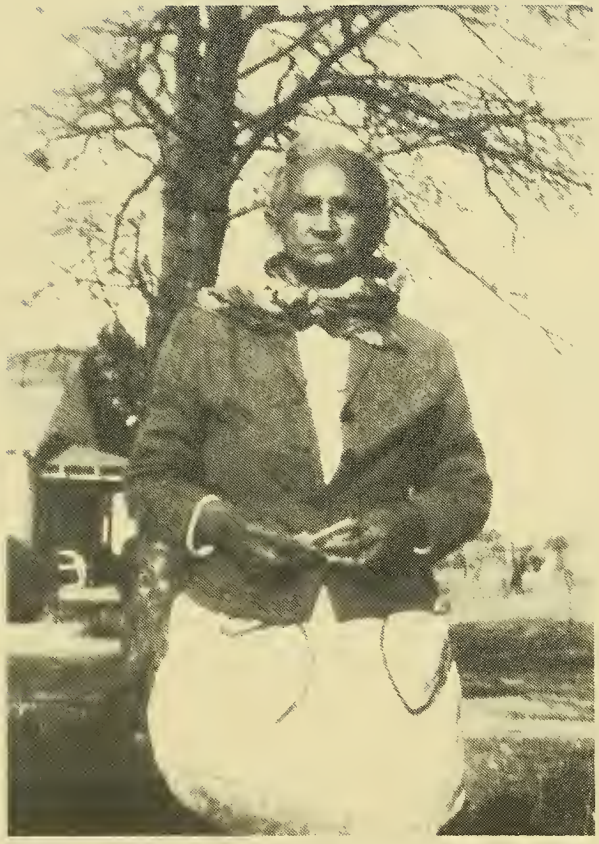
E. William Lewis unknown

F. John Lewis unknown

III. LIZZIE McGHEE (1879-1970) m. Henry Dawes (9)

She would rather go fishing than to do anything else. She took her parents in to live with her when they got elderly. When she married Henry Dawes she moved to live with him on land owned by the Dawes on the west side of Kinton Forks. Lizzie and Henry gave land to be used for a school for the children in the area. Mary Fountain Hicks (Isabella's daughter-in-law) taught grades one through seven in this one room school house for many years. The understanding was that when the state no longer recognized the school, and it was no longer needed for that purpose, the land would revert to the original owner(s). There is still some dispute as to if this agreement was fulfilled or not.

A. Lou Johnson Dawes (1905-) m. Lucy Smith (7)
1. Louise Dawes (1930-) m. George Brooks (4)
a. Alfonda Brooks (1947-) m. ---
b. Denise Brooks m. Jimmy --- (1)
(1)
c. Tony Brooks
d. Pamela Brooks



LIZZIE McGHEE DAWES

2. Claudette Dawes (1934-) m. --- (2)
   a. Ronnie Dawes
   b. Donna Jean Dawes
3. James "Buddy" Dawes (1937-) m. Elizabeth Taylor (7)
   a. Vernita Dawes (1961-)
   b. Tammy Dawes (1962-)
   c. James Ronald Dawes (1963-)
   d. Cheryl Dawes (1965-)
   e. Pamela Dawes (1967-)
   f. William Antonio Dawes (1970-)
   g. Yamika Dawes (1971-)
4. Clifton Dawes (1939-) (4)
   a. Markita Dawes (1961-)
   b. "Boot" Dawes (1964-)
   c. Twanna Dawes (1965-)
   d. Clifton Dawes (1965-)
5. Marilyn Dawes (1944-) (6)
   a. James Dawes (1960-)
   b. Casandra Dawes (1961-)
   c. Pamela Dawes (1967-)
   d. Shawn Dawes
   e. Yassey Dawes
   f. Tomika Dawes

6. Lorraine Dawes (1947-) m. Frank Taylor (4)
   a. Trilby Taylor (1964-)
   b. Melinda Taylor (1965-) m. --- (1)
      (1) Raheem Taylor
   c. David Taylor (1966-)
   d. Benjamin Taylor (1968-)
7. Tina Dawes (1950-) m. --- (2)
   a. Wayne Dawes
   b. Andre Dawes

B. Annice Dawes (1908-) m. Herman Tyler (8)
1. Lee McCoy Tyler (1927-) m. Eula Mae Ragland (5)
   a. Lee M. Tyler, Jr. (1946-) m. Mary A. Rogers (2)
      (1) Angela Tyler
      (2) Jeffrey Tyler
   b. Joseph Alex Tyler (1947-) m. Bertina Glover (2)
      (1) Keshia Tyler
      (2) Joseph Tyler, Jr.
   c. Cecil Tyler (1949-) m. Joyce Puryear (2)
      (1) Tanya Tyler
      (2)
   d. Howard Melvin Tyler (1951-) m. Rita Jordan (1)
      (1) Howard Melvin Tyler, III
   e. Arnold Tyler (1958-) m. --- (1)
2. Herman Tyler, Jr. (1928-)
3. Douglass Tyler (1931-) m. Mamie Parker (2)
   a. Stanley Trent Tyler
   b. Carol Lynell Tyler
4. Annice Jean Tyler (1934-) m. Connie Glover (3)
   a. Glenice Glover m. James Holmes (1)
      (1) Christopher Holmes
   b. Avis Glover m. Phillip Cousin (1)
      (1) Phillip Cousin, III
   c. Constance Glover m. Murphy Fountain
5. Kermit Tyler (1936-)
6. Billy Tyler (1942-) m. Annie Hunt (2)
   a. Darnell Bernard Tyler (1963-)
   b. Michael Alonzo Tyler (1967-)
7. Audrey Tyler (1948-)
8. Diane Tyler (1949-) m. Robert Taylor (1)
   a. Robert Taylor, Jr. (1968-)

C. Freddie Dawes (1910-) m. George Lester (9)
1. George Lester, Jr. (1932-) m. --- (4)
   a.
   b.
   c.
   d.
2. Ufrada Lester (1933-)
3. Eurice Lester (1935-)twin m. --- (4)
   a.
   b.
   c.
   d.

4. Eunice Lester (1935-) twin m. --- (2)
   a.
   b.
5. Deloris Lester (1937-)
6. Gertrude Lester (1943-) m. Michael Wright (2)
   a. Michael Wright, Jr.
   b. Deseree Wright
7. Susan Lester (1947-) m. --- Fortune (1)
   a.
8. Jeffrey Lester (1954-)
9. Linda Lester

D. Mary Dawes (1913-1975) m. Randolph Carter (7)
   1. Randolph Carter, Jr. (1930-) m. 1st Clara Pimental (4)
      2nd Esther Crews (3)
      a. Randolph Carter, III (1950-) m. Linda --- (2)
         (1) Alia Carter
         (2) "Neecie" Carter
      b. Lynn Carter (1952-) m. Galberth John (3)
         (1) Deserie John
         (2)
         (3)
      c. Pamela Carter (1953-)
      d. Wade Carter (1956-) m. Felicia --- (2)
         (1) Wade Carter, Jr. (1980-)
         (2) Kirsten Carter (1983-)
      e. Larry Carter (1962-)
      f. Brian Carter (1966-)
      g. Lesa Ann Carter (1968-)
   2. Linwood "Buddy" Carter (1933-) m. Melainie Cheek (4)
      a. Arnold Lee Carter (1958-
      b. Monica Carter (1964-)
      c. Vandra Carter (1967-)
      d. Tyrone Edward Carter (1978-)
   3. Robert Carter (-1974) m. --- (1)
      a. Robert Carter, Jr. (1960-)
   4. Charles Carter (-1972)
   5. Thomas Carter (-) m. --- (2)
      a.
      b.
   6. Doris Carter (-) m. Eddie Kane (2)
      a.
      b.
   7. Claudia Carter (-) m. --- (2)
      a. Adrian (1975-)
      b. "Neecy" (1976-)

E. William H. Dawes (1915-) m. Emma Hawley

F. Richard Dawes (1917-1926)

G. Lillian Dawes (1919-) twin m. Monroe Hargrove

H. Kittie Dawes (1919-) twin m. William Drew (1)
1. Yvonne Drew (1940-) m. Johnny Taylor (4)
a.
b.
c.
d.

IV. ALEXANDER McGHEE (1881-1954) m. Bell Malone (6)

A. Erostus Hazel McGhee (1909-)

B. Randolph McGhee (1908-1928) killed at A & T State College while playing football.

C. Alfonzo McGhee (1909-) m. --- (6)
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

D. Coreast McGhee (1916-)

E. Belle Verneta McGhee (1919-)
1. Warren McGhee (1935-1980)

F. Harold Lee McGhee (1920-1969) m. --- (3)
1.
2.
3.

V. MOLLIE McGHEE (1884-1921) m. Alfred Young (4)

A. Irene Young (1902-) m. Otis Hicks, Jr. (9)
1. Skinner Hicks (1925-) m. Alverta Burnett (5)
a. Bermadene Hicks (-) m. --- (1)
(1) Aleshia Rene Hicks (1972-)
b. Constance Hicks (1952-) m. --- (1)
(1) Eric Hicks (1974-)
c. Ethel Hicks (1955-) m. Billy Lockett (2)
(1) Markus Lockett (1973-)
(2) Shannon Lockett (1977-)
d. Barbara Ann Hicks (1957-) m. Charles Cheek (2)
(1) Latoya Cheek (1976-)
(2) Charles Lorenzo Cheek (1982-)
e. Arlene Hicks (1961-) m. --- (1)
(1) Trevor Jamaal Hicks
2. Lillian Hicks (1927-1952) m. Elmo Smith (2)
a. Pauletta Smith (1950-) m. Haywood Harris (3)
(1)
(2) Tammy Wynette Harris
(3) Haywood Harris, III
b. Tommy Smith (1951-) m. Linda Best (3)
(1) Roderick J. Johnson (1979-)

(2) Bridgett Gailey (1980-)
(3) Robert Smith (1983-)

3. Alzata Hicks (1928-1966) m. John D. Puryear (6)
   a. Billy Puryear (1949-) m. Janet (1)
      (1) Alzata Puryear (1970-)
   b. Ronnie Puryear (1953-) m. Janet Lewis (1)
      (1) Loranda Puryear (1979-)
   c. Charles Puryear (1954-) m. Janet Bullock (1)
      (1) Charles Puryear, Jr. (1976-)
   d. Harold D. Puryear (1955-) m. Catherine Murphy (1)
      (1) Shiease Marche Puryear (1982-)
   e. James Arnold Puryear (1957-) m. --- (1)
      (1)
   f. Anthony Puryear (1958-)
4. Rosetta Hicks (1932-) m. --- Jones (1)
   a. Lawrence Jones m. Tony --- (1)
      (1)
5. John Thomas "Buddy" Hicks (1934-)
6. Alfred Vernon Hicks (1938-) m. Ethel Thorckmorton (4)
   a. Marjorie Deloris Hicks (1962-)
   b. Alfreda Hicks (1963-)
   c. Benjamin Hicks
   d. Reginald Hicks
7. Ralph Hicks (1941-) m. Faye Fields (3)
   a. Betty Ann Hicks (1967-)
   b. Darlene Hicks (1969-)
   c. Danny Hicks (1970-)
8. Elizabeth Hicks (1943-) m. Willie Burnett (4)
   a. Anthony Burnett
   b. Kathaleen Burnett (1965-)
   c. Becky Burnett (1966-)
   d.
9. Carl Otis Hicks (1947-)

B. Essie Young (1904-1983) m. McKinley Royster (1)
   1. Ralph Leroy Young (1934-) m. Mary Pettiford (3)
      a. Blondie Adessia Young (1955-) m. --- Thomas (1)
         (1) Nekitia Thomas
      b. Wyvette Young (1956-) m. --- (1)
         (1) Timeca Young
      c. Amanda young (1966-)

C. Johnny Young (1910-) m. 1st Bessie Cooper (1)
   2nd Geraldine Hall
   1. Blanch Young (1935-) m. Jacky Sonto (5)
      a. Jackie Sonto
      b. Frankie Sonto
      c. Ricky Sonto
      d. Beatrice Sonto
      e. Elizabeth Sonto

JOHNNY YOUNG (1910-)
with 2nd wife, Geraldine Hall

D. Ruby Young (1915-1976) m. Allen Hester (2)
   1. Laine Hester m. Robert Williams (2)
      a. Robert Williams, Jr.
      b. Steward Williams
   2. Ruth Hester (-) m. Lyndell Johnson (5)
      a. Sandra Johnson (-) m. --- (1)
         (1)
      b. Palema Johnson (-) m. --- (1)
         (1)
      c. Randy Johnson
      d. Michael Johnson
      e. Towanda Johnson

VI. JULIA McGHEE (1886-) m. Hamme Walter (3)

A. Roland Walter (unknown)

B. Hubert Walter (unknown)

C. Fannie Bell Walter (-) m. Eddie Baker

VII. FREDDIE McGHEE (1888-) m. Sam Fields (5)

FREDDIE McGHEE FIELDS

Freddie is a wonder and a marvel. Her body is so frail that she looks as if a strong wind could blow her away, yet her mind remains crystal clear. Her memories, although sometimes off center in details were right on target as to the core of facts. Her shared memories of growing up in McGehee-Town among all the members of the extended family made that time and place come alive.

She remembered that Granddaddy Bob died of the "dropsy". She gave vivid descriptions of Caroline and her other grandmother, Phillis Hicks, whom she said had a twin brother. When I asked her if Caroline had brothers or sisters, she exploded with a "yes" before inner doubts clouded her old, tanned leather face. Watching her one could see her struggle to recall nearly a century of living before she finally said that she could not remember.

She told of a family reunion held when she was a child and 400 people came, "at least".

A. Armatha "Mae" Fields (1912-) m. Willie M. Grant (2)
   1. Dorothy Grant (1931-) m. Rudolph Hayes
   2. James Grant (1933-) m. Mary Anderson (5)
      a. James Grant, Jr. (1950-) m. Pat --- (2)
         (1) Bryant Grant
         (2) James Grant, III
      b. Coretha Grant (1954-) m. --- Townes (3)
         (1)
         (2)
         (3)
      c. Ricky Grant (1956-)
      d. Terry Grant (1958-)
      e. Gwendolyn Grant (-)

B. Sam "Tom" Fields, Jr. (1914-) m. Eva Pettiway (3)
   1. Eva Fields
   2. Geraldine Fields
   3. Selena Fields

C. Eunice Fields (1916-) m. --- (3)
1. Deloris Fields (-1969)
2. Clarence Fields (1938-) m. Julia Davis (3)
   a. Clarence Fields, Jr. (1960-)
   b. Christopher Fields (1962-)
   c. Donald Fields (1964-)
3. Mary Roselle Fields (1950-1973) m. --- (1)
   a. Tracy Fields (1968-)

D. Gladys Fields (1918-)

E. Julia Fields (1921-) m. Andrew Harris (2)
1. Andrew Harris, Jr. (1953-) m. Lou Ann Edmonds (1)
   a. Andrew Edward Harris, III (1979-)
2. Stanley Harris (1957-)

VIII. HENRY McGHEE (1890-) m. Pocahantas "Dumpsty" Royster (3)

This is another one of Fed's children who I was not able to trace. It is said that he left Henderson after 1925 and went North somewhere.

A. Helen Henry McGhee (1921-1922)

B. Louise McGhee (1923-) (unknown)

C. Mary Eliza McGhee (1925-) (unknown)

IX. LOUISA (ESSIE) McGHEE (1893-) died young

X. HERVY McGHEE (1896-) m. Jessie Oakley (1)

A. Ernestine McGhee (unknown)

It is said that Hervy died in New York where he lived with his daughter, Ernestine.

CHAPTER VIII
ALEXANDER

God knows I would be kind, let live, speak fair,
Requite an honest debt with more than just,
And love for Christ's dear sake these shapes that wear
A pride that had its genesis in dust,---
The meek are promised much in a book I know
But one grows weary turning cheek to blow.

"Mood"
Countee Cullen

CHAPTER VIII

ALEXANDER McGHEE
(1858-1928)

Alex was a quiet man of few words. Short and stocky, he resembled most his brothers Frank and David. Any photographs of him which were in existence went up in flames when grandson Willie Ernest's house was burned to the ground. He farmed with his father until his father died and the small farm was divided among the heirs. He had built a small log cabin on the land where he lived, and worked his small portion with his sons until each of them went out on his own.

He was left a widow twice. His first wife, Virginia, had died by 1910, and he was left with small children to raise. His second wife, Delia, died in 1921 when the youngest of her four children was only a baby. After this death, the family was scattered into different households. Leonora went to live with Mary Frances ("Sis"), Elmus went to Townsville to live with Virginia ("Duke"), Alex, Jr. went to brother Ulysses, and the baby Frank was taken in by his maternal grandmother, Sally Kittrell. A granddaughter, Bessie, remembers that it was her job, every morning, to lace up her grandfather's shoes for him when he had become very ill.

Alex struggled on as best as he could until felled by first one stroke and then another. He lingered for more than a year before having a fatal heart attack while living with his son Ulysses.

ALEXANDER McGHEE m. 1st Virginia Royster (7)
2nd Delia Kittrell (4)

I. Thomas Alexander McGhee (1883-1944) m. Olivia Carlton (8)

II. Ulysses McGhee (1886-1965) m. Bessie Jones (12)

III. Mary Frances McGhee (1889-) m. Lewis Young (4)

IV. Gertrtude McGhee (1890-) m. Colonel Burt (3)

V. Virginia McGhee (1894-1975) m. Theopolis Scott (7)

VI. James Edward McGhee (1897-1964) m. Nannie Reid (8)

VII. Joseph Theophalis McGhee (1899-) m. 1st Bettie Allen
2nd Carrie ---

VIII. Leonora McGhee (1913-1937) m. Ernest Crowder (1)

IX. Elmus McGhee (1915-1933)

X. Alexander McGhee, Jr. (1917-) m. Toney Collins (6)

XI. Frank McGhee (1919-) m. Eunice Mae Marrow (5)

I. THOMAS ALEXANDER McGHEE (1883-1944) m. Olivia Carlton (8)

THOMAS ALEXANDER McGHEE

In the olden days there was a belief that if you looked in a well on the day of the first full moon in May you would see the face of your lover. Tommy did this and saw a beautiful woman dressed in a blue and white polka dot blouse. Her face was not familiar to him so he knew she did not live in Oxford. Later, on a shopping trip to Durham, he saw the same woman, dressed in the same polka dot blouse. It was Olivia, and together they had eight children. He lived and worked in Durham. He is buried in the graveyard adjacent to White Rock Baptist Church.

A. Virginia McGhee (1909-1960) m. John A. Barnette (1)
   1. John T. Barnette (1928-) m. Nannie Foushee (2)
      a. Patricia Barnette (1949-) m. Clarence Rains (1)
         (1) Clarence Rains, Jr. (1969-)
      b. Virginia Barnette (1952-) m. --- (1)
         (1) Sherria Barnette (1970-)

B. Thomas A. McGhee, Jr. (1911-1968) m. Flora Cureton

C. Isiah W. McGhee (1913-1979) m. Maggie Harris (2)
   1. Carolyn McGhee (1944-) m. --- (3)
      a. Arneathia McGhee (1963-)
      b. Niral McGhee (1971-)
      c. Rashad McGhee (1975-)
   2. Donna Belinda McGhee (1949-) m. Ralph Mack (2)
      a. Tarleahia Mack (1968-)
      b. Nikkie Mack (1977-)

D. Olivia Helen McGhee (1915-) m. Wilkie Nelson (2)
   1. Ernestine Nelson (1940-) m. James Osler (2)
      a. James Edward Osler, Jr. (1968-)
      b. Tammy Osler (1971-)
   2. Wilkie Nelson, Jr. (1944-) m. Thelma Whitley (4)
      a. Eric Nelson (1965-)
      b. Samuel Nelson (1966-)
      c. Anthony Nelson (1967-)
      d. Gerald Nelson (1969-)

E. Bertha Magnolia McGhee (1919-1940)

F. Israel S. McGhee (1921-) m. Siddie Squires (3)
1. Judy Alfreda McGhee (1947-) m. William Barnette (1)
a. Kimberly Barnette (1970-)
2. Israel Samuel McGhee, Jr. (1949-) m. Delois Griffin (2)
a. Angie McGhee (1968-)
b. Israel Samuel McGhee, III (1970-)
3. Jeffrey Demont McGhee (1959-) m. Iris Beasley (1)
a. Jeffrey Demont McGhee, Jr. (1982-)

G. Thelma Louise McGhee (1926-) m. Will Ellis Perry (2)
1. Denise Granae Pery (1964-)
2. Will Ellis Perry, Jr. (1967-)

H. Peggy Ruth McGhee (1930-) m. Alton Thompson (2)
1. Alton Thompson, Jr. (1953-)
2. George Christopher Thompson (1957-)

II. ULYSSES McGHEE (1886-1965) m. Bessis Jones (12)

When his father died, Ulysses bought his father's land. After marrying a woman from the area, he spent his life farming on that tract and additional acreage he acquired. He was instrumental in gathering some of the clan together for a family reunion in the late 1960's; however, many of the relatives did not hear about the gathering until it was over.

Right: ULYSSES GRANT McGHEE
Center: BESSIE JONES McGHEE
Left: SESSER JONES, brother of Bessie

In her old age, Bessie remained active on the farm, even after her husband died. One day she was burning off the grass in the yard (or field) as was the custom in those days to improve the soil. She worked too close to the fire which caught the hem of her dress. She soon was engulfed in flames and severely burned. She died as a result of that accident. Her remains, along with those of Ulysses, lie buried in the graveyard of Huntsville Baptist Church.

A. Harvey Nathaniel McGhee (died very young)

B. Ulysses Eula McGhee (1907-) m. Luster Greenwood (3)

It is not unusual for girls to be given names usually reserved for boys, and vice versa. It is unusual, however, if the father's name is Ulysses and the first daughter is named for that father.

ULYSSES McGHEE GREENWOOD
daughter of Ulysses McGhee
1913

1. Luster Greenwood, Jr. (1930-)
2. Roosevelt Greenwood (1932-) m. Shirley P. --- (1)
   a. Roosevelt LaMar Greenwood (1963-)
3. Juanello Greenwood (1942-) m. William Hargrove (3)
   a. William Randolph Hargrove, Jr. (1967-)
   b. Zaneta Hargrove (1968-)
   c. Roderick Hargrove (1972-)

C. Bettie McGhee (1909-) m. 1st John A. Smith (1)
2nd Frank Gillian (2)

1. John Milton Smith (1934-) m. --- (3)
   a.
   b.
   c.
2. Doris Gilliam (1947-) m. Leo Wright (2)
   a. Sharon Wright
   b. Darryl Wright
3. Mary Nell Gilliam (1949-) m. James Brown (2)
   a. Michael Brown
   b. Yolanda Brown

Willie Ernest had a serious argument with a white man one day which could not be resolved. All of his family went to town that Saturday and when they returned their house had been burned to the ground. The smell of kerosene hung heavily in the air. Many papers, photographs and momentos from Alex and from Mollie had gone up in flames to settle a grudge.

D. Willie Ernest McGhee (1911-1977) m. Thelma Hicks (8)
1. Willie E. McGhee, Jr. (1939-) m. Estelle Dawes (3)
   a. Linda McGhee (1960-) m. James Davis (1)
      (1) Alberta Davis (1980-)
   b. Adrian Davis (1961-) twin
   c. Andrew Davis (1961-) twin
2. Marjorie McGhee (1941-) m. Lawrence Brumwell (3)
   a. Demita Ann Brumwell
   b. Lisa LaSalle Brumwell
   c. Marjorie Lynn Brumwell
3. Mary Alice McGhee (1943-) m. Charlie Brumwell (5)
   a. Renee Brumwell
   b. Chardetta Brumwell
   c. Charlie Brumwell, Jr.
   d. Troy Brumwell
   e. Dominique Brumwell
4. Annie Jerice McGhee (1945-) m. Ernest Debnam (2)
   a. Ernest Debnam, Jr. (1967-)
   b. Steven Cory Debnam (1976-)
5. Arvell McGhee (1947-) m. Mattie Gregory (4)
   a. Arvell McGhee, Jr.
   b. Regina McGhee (1966-)
   c. Latrice McGhee
   d. Nicolle McGhee
6. Joseph McCoy McGhee (1949-) m. Shelia Wilkerson (3)
   a. Angela McGhee
   b. Anthony McGhee
   c. Charnetta McGhee
7. John Edward McGhee (1951-) m. Nell Webb (4)
   a. Ivery McGhee (1970-)
   b. John E. McGhee, Jr. (1972-)
   c. Reginald McGhee (1973-)
   d. Mark McGhee (1976-)
8. Anthony McGhee (1958-1959) died in infancy

E. Oscar McGhee (1912-) m. Bessie Lee Hopkins (9)
1. Oscar McGhee, Jr. (1936-)
2. Ernestine McGhee (1938-) m. Curtis Smith (2)
   a. Curtis (Rick) Smith (1965-)
   b. Darin Smith (1967-)
3. Alma Gracie McGhee (1940-) m. Frankie Hines (2)
   a. Frankie Hines, Jr.
   b. Sabrina Hines (1972-)
4. Shirley McGhee (1942-)
5. Roger Lee McGhee (1944-)
6. Clifton McGhee (1946-)
7. Arnethia McGhee (1948-) m. Gerney Anderson (2)
   a. Parrish McTura McGhee (1969-)
   b. Yolanda Anita McGhee (1974-)
8. Beulah Mae McGhee (1950-) m. Harold Wakefield
9. Dwight McGhee (1953-)

F. Josephine McGhee (1914-) m. Gladys David Cooper (5)
1. Udellus Cooper (-) m. Robert Hawley (6)
   a. James Thomas Hawley (-) m. Marsha Booth (2)

(1) Jamie Hawley
(2) James Thomas Hawley, Jr.
b. Yvonne Hawley (-) m. Jerry Prather (3)
(1) James Burnett Hawley
(2) Jerry Auther Prather, Jr.
(3) Jovana Prather
c. Robert Hawley, Jr.
d. Lawrence Hawley (-) m. Carolyn --- (3)
(1) Lonnie Hawley (1976-)
(2) Sirlawrence Hawley
(3) Joseph Hawley
e. Albert Hawley (-) m. --- (1)
(1) Lamant Hawley
f. Robin Hawley
2. Juanita Cooper (1939-1978)
3. Carolyn Cooper (-) m. James Lewis Dunn (3)
a. Rachael Dunn (-) m. --- (1)
(1) Jacqueline Dunn
b. James Lewis Dunn, Jr.
c. Josephine Dunn (-) m. John Biah (2)
(1) Yyear Biah
(2) Aloy Biah
4. Brenda Cooper (1950-1982) m. --- (1)
a. Renee Cooper (1976-)
5. Burnett Cooper (1952-) m. Virginia Hargrove (3)
a. Burnett David Cooper, Jr. (1978-)
b. Ulysses Cleotic Cooper (1982-)
c. Kim Elizabeth Cooper (1983-)

G. Aramintha McGhee (1918-) m. Willie Marable (6)
1. Willie Ervin Marable (1941-) m. Betty Wilkerson (3)
a. Derrick Marable
b. Craig Marable
c. Gregory Marable
2. Ida Mae Maraqble (1943-) m. James Royster (4)
a. Seltry Royster (1961-)
b. Alonzo Royster (1965-)
c. Shona Royster (1967-)
d. Shereika Royster (1982-)
3. James Edward Maraqble (1944-) m. Betty Hobgood (1)
a. LaMar Hobgood Marable (1980-)
4. Betty Frances Marable (1945-) m. William Smith (4)
a. Maurice Smith
b. Theresa Smith
c. Lamont Smith
d. Tonya Smith
5. Jerry Marable (1947-) m. Ann Williams (1)
a. Anthony Marable (1969-)
6. Vernell Marable (1949-) m. Ida Harris (2)
a.
b.

H. Quetha McGhee (1919-) twin to Quelessie, died young

I. Quelessie McGhee (1919-1950) m. Viola Hutchinson (5)

1. Telessie McGhee (1946-) m Mary Royster (3)
   a. Kelvin Bernard McGhee (1967-)
   b. Latonya McGhee (1970-)
   c. Celeste Nichole McGhee (1981-)
2. Diane McGhee (1947-) m. Earl Parham (3)
   a. Curtis Parham
   b. Reginald Parham
   c. Ricky Parham
3. George Thomas McGhee (1948-) m. Sylvia Ray (2)
   a. Quelessie McGhee
   b. George McGhee
4. Linda McGhee (1949-)
5. Gloria Ann McGhee (1950-) m. Donnell Bullock (1)
   a. Donald Bullock (1973-)

J. Novella McGhee (1920-) m. Colonel Wilson

K. Bessye Mae McGhee (1922-) m. 1st Wade Hall (1)
   2nd James Joseph Bradley (1)
   3rd --- Lucel (2)

1. Joseph Hall
2. James J. Bradley, Jr.
3. Diane Lucel
4. Ramona Lucel

L. Justine McGhee (1924-) m. Elgin Lake (1)
   1. Elgin Lake, Jr.

III. MARY FRANCES McGHEE (1889-) m. Lewis Young (4)

The red-haired "Sis" married two men named Lewis; Young and Taborn. Lewis Young was the father of her children, however, and they lived in the Graball area of the county. After being a widow for some time, she married Lewis Taborn, who was a farmer and a carpenter. She died while living with one of her children in Pennsylvania. It is not known if she has any descendants living today, because contact has not been kept with any of them.

A. Gattis Young (1918-) m. Marie Washington (1)
   1. Marie Young (1946-)

B. Candice Young (-) m. Ben Mitchner (1)
   1. Mary Frances Mitchner (1940-) m. --- (2)
      a. Bernice ---
      b.

C. Earline Young (-) m. --- Howard

D. Clifford Young (1923-)

IV. GERTRUDE McGHEE (1890-) m. Colonel Burt (3)

"Gertie" was another McGhee who married a man named Burt. Colonel Burt was the brother of Walter Burt who married Frank's Nannie.

A. Geraldine Burt (1915-) m. James Beasley (1)
   1. Jean Beasley

B. Nathaniel Burt (1918-)

C. Elizabeth Burt (1920-1940) m. --- Satterfield

V. VIRGINIA McGHEE (1894-1975) m. Theopolis Scott (7)

"Duke" lived in the Townsville area of the county with her farmer husband, Theo. When her father's second wife, Delia, died, she took the young Elmus in to live with her. Her many neices remember her as a loving person, who when they visited her would smother them in hugs and kisses.

VIRGINIA McGHEE SCOTT

A. Inez Scott (1924-) m. Henry Kersey

B. Adron Scott (1925-) m. Ruth Royster (2)
1. Eric Scott (1962-)
2. Audrey Scott (1972-)

C. Theo Scott (1928-) m. Drucilla Roberts (2)
1. Carolyn Scott (1953-) m. Joseph Nelson (1)
a. Shawn Nelson
2. Theo Scott, Jr. (1954-)

D. George William Scott (1930-) m. Julia Royster (3)
1. William Scott (Rev.) (1953-)
2. Randolph Scott (1959-)
3. Barbara Jean Scott (1963-)

E. Randolph Scott (1934-) m. Mary --- (3)
1. Darian Scott (1960-)
2. Tammara Scott (1962-)
3. Jeffrey Scott (1967-)

F. Etta Gertrude Scott (1936-) m. Francis Royster (2)
1. Marvin Royster (1959-)
2. Vernon Royster (1962-)

G. Emily Delois Scott (1939-) m. Agustus Brumwell

VI. JAMES EDWARD McGHEE (1897-1964) m. Nannie Reid (8)

James Edward was a plumber who lived and raised his family in Henderson, North Carolina. Dark red in complexion, his hair was so black that it sometimes looked blue. The story is told of the time he was ill and checked himself into Duke Hospital for treatment. It was in the days when there were separate wards for the races. His wife, Nannie, came from Henderson to see him, and was most distressed when she could not find him in the colored ward. She was almost ready to leave when she decided to check the white ward. There he was, laying in bed. *"Nannie, I told them I was colored but they told me that I was Indian, so here I am!"*

A. James McGhee, Jr. (1917-) m. --- Curtis (4)
1. Edward Earl McGhee
2. Charlotte Ann McGhee
3. Curtis McGhee
4. Travis McGhee

B. Dorothy Earl McGhee (1921-)

C. John Edward McGhee (1923-1946)

D. Ruffin Alexander McGhee (1925-) m. Constance Rowe (1)
1. Jocelyn Alexandria McGhee (1955-)

E. Clorene McGhee (1929-) m. James Taylor (3)
1. Floretta Clorene Taylor (1958-)
2. Tonya Rozelle Taylor (1961-) (1)
a. Demetrius Taylor
3. James Theophilus McGhee Taylor (1965-)

F. Florene McGhee (Rev.) (1929-) twin to Clorene

G. Sarah Frances McGhee (1931-) m. William Jones, D.V.M. (3)
   1. Sherryl Renee Jones (1955-)
   2. Wilma Bravetta Jones (1959-)
   3. Tawanda Everette Jones (1963-)

H. Walter Thomas McGhee (1934-) m. Tressie --- (1)
   1. Michelle Yolander McGhee (1962-)

JAMES McGHEE
with grandchild

ULYSSES McGHEE, JAMES McGHEE, THEA McGHEE

VII. JOSEPH THEOPHOLIS McGHEE (1899-) m. 1st Betty Allen
2nd Carrie---

After Theo married he tried his hand at farming for awhile. It was not long before he discovered that life was not for him. He completely dropped from sight as he drifted to New York, Florida and elsewhere before finally settling in Philadelphia where he became an expert cook.

During an interview with Theo in the spring of 1985 he had this to say.

"They say that Uncle Frank was sold on the block...t'ain't a word of it so. I don't care if it's written in the paper or not... it's wrong, it never happened. Frank told Thad Stem what he wanted that white man to hear...Fed was a big liar. He would lie just to hear you laugh...Frank was the same way.

"Granddaddy Bob ain't never been no slave. My daddy, Alex, told me that he was free... and that he was an Indian, a North Crolina Indian... what tribe I don't know. They hide it from you, you know. They don't want you to know what your nationality is.

"If a white man bought a slave or hired one, that person had to take his name. You can't find out what Bob's name was before he was a McGhee. He came to the McGehees in some kind of way...whether he was sold, or they stole him, or what...they could have stole him. We don't know nothing about his brothers and sisters... they were sold to other tribes or done away with or took some other name...there could be brothers and sisters and never know it because they took other names."

VIII. LEONORA McGHEE (1913-1937) m. Ernest Crowder (1)

She was a young woman in her early twenties and she had everything going for her; a loving husband and a growing baby. She was feeling well that Sunday of the last day of her life. She needed to borrow some flavoring from a neighbor for a cake that she was baking. By dark, she had become suddenly very ill and died before the night was over.

A. Ernest Crowder, Jr. (1935-)

IX. ELMUS McGHEE (1915-1933) died at eighteen years of age while living with his sister "Duke". He had been bitten by a rattlesnake.

X. ALEXANDER McGEE, JR. (1917-) m. Toney Collins (6)

Alex took to farming like a duck to water. He bought land near the original family farm, raised his children, and lives there today.

L to R: THOMAS McGHEE, JR., WILLIAM DAWES (grandson of Fed McGhee), ALEXANDER McGEE, JR.

A. Eveline McGee (1940-)

B. Marilyn McGee (1941-) m. Harold Wilson (1)
1. Carolyn Ellen Wilson

C. Doria McGee (1943-) m. Allen Crapps (1)
1. Shawn Alexander Crapps

D. Lynwood McGee (1944-) (3)
1. Lynwood McGee, Jr.
2. Lamond McGee
3. Lamar Corey McGee

E. Caroline McGee (1946-) m. Ernest Pitts (3)
1. Sharlita Cherise Pitts
2. Tara Lafay Pitts
3. Ernest Pitts, Jr.

F. Tonie Cheryl McGee (1953-)

XI. FRANK McGHEE (1919-) m. Eunice Mae Marrow (5)

Frank farmed some, but his most steady employment was that of a truck driver for a lumber company.

A. Deloris M. McGhee (1941-) m. George Chambers (1)
1. David Michael Chambers (1962-)

B. James Franklin McGhee (1944-) m. Bettie Eaton

C. Catherine McGhee (1947-) m. Lewis Thorpe, III (2)
1. Thomas B. Thorpe (1970-)
2. Shawn N. Thorpe (1979-)

D. Alvin T. McGhee (1950-)

E. Muriel L. McGhee (1952-) m. Sorenzo Walker

CHAPTER IX

THOMAS

Bad Luck and Hard Times

. . .And Esau came from the field, and he was faint. . .Feed me. . .for I feel faint. . .And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold I am at the point to die. And what profit shall this birthright do to me?. . .And he sold his birthright unto Jacob. . .and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way. . .

Genesis: 25, 29-34.

CHAPTER IX

THOMAS McGHEE
1863-1947

Life was never easy for any of the members of this family of former slaves, and it seemed to be harder for Tom and Lucy than for most. He tore down the old house where his parents had lived and built a new house in its place for his family. He successfully farmed his own land for many years before a series of losses and misfortunes turned that world upside down.

Children and grandchildren alike became ill and died with the accompanying expenses born by Tom. First to succumb where the children Kittie Elnora in 1907, and Colonel Leak in 1909. Next was his daughter Lena who died soon after her twins were born in 1915, followd closely by first one twin Elbert Burt, in 1915, then the other Ethel Burt in 1917. This couple had a brief respite before a son, David, died in 1922, then daughter Willie and grandson, Colonel Burt died in 1928. The worst was yet to come. It has been said that a grandson got into some kind of legal difficulty for which money was needed. The farm was put up for collateral or security for repayment of the loan, and was subsequently lost for the lack of a few hundred dollars.

After the farm was lost, Tom and Lucy moved to town in the late thirties and spent their remaining lives there on Green Street. Next door to him lived his nephew, Benjamin, son of David. Ben made the daily trip to his farm in the Fishing Creek Township in an A-Model Ford. When the long summer days were dry and hot, the car would stir up a cloud of dust as it careened down the unpaved street. Tom would come out in the yard, shaking his fists and looking most like an enraged Santa Claus. He would yell, "Boy!" (Ben was over fifty years old at the time) "Stop driving so fast down here kicking up all that dust!"

Tom and his wife, Lucy, not only reared their own twelve children but many of their grandchildren as well when they were left ophans. Grandchildren Vertie, Ada, and Mack lived with Tom and Lucy when their mother Willie died. They also reared Colonel and Sidney Burt due to the same set of circumstances.

Always a thin, spindly man, Tom's hair was snow white in his later years. He and Lucy dipped snuff with a toothbursh made from a green tree twig. After the twig was moistened, they would dip it into the snuff, gathering enough to rub over gums and under the bottom lip. In the evenings during these twilight years, they sat contentedly rocking on their small back porch sharing the snuff box between them. Tom would turn to Lucy and say:

"Luce, I want you to go inside and cook me something!"

"Tom, I ain't cooking no more today. I ain't cooking nothing else. You go in there and eat what I cooked this morning. I ain't cooking no more!"

A granddaughter-in-law remembers Tom as kindly, thoughtful man, who showered a lot of care and love on his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Coming from New York for a visit in the South, she expressed an interest in tasting some of the local fresh water fish. Tom went out and got her some from somewhere.

He was strong and well until just before he died. Walking was the usual mode of transportation during those days, so it wasn't unusual for him to take his walking stick and walk to and from town. He died after having lived for eighty-three years, and is buried in the graveyard adjacent to the Huntsville Baptist Church.

THOMAS McGHEE & family
Standing L to R: Bruce, Lucy Hunt McGhee, Thomas McGhee, grandchildren Ada, Mack, Vertie Mae Davis.
In Front: Thomas McGhee, Jr. with Sanetta & Lena McGhee

THOMAS McGHEE (1863-1947)m. Lucy Hunt (12)

I. Lena McGhee (1891-1915) m. Sidney Burt (4)
She was just a teenager when she married into the Burt family. Her father and mother reared her children Colonel and Sidney after she died. Her grandsons are owners of a trucking firm, and her graddaughter is a successful lawyer.

II. Georgia McGhee (1892-) m. Alfred Burwell (6)
Georgia and her husband were among the first of Tom's children to move to Philadelphia. She raised her family there.

III. Kittie Elnora McGhee (1895-1907)
Died as a child and is buried in the old graveyard.

IV. Colonel Leak McGhee (1898-1909)
Died as a child and is buried in the old graveyard.

V. Willie McGhee (1900-1928) m. James Davis (3)
Willie died when her children were very young so Tom and Lucy reared the grandchildren.

VI. Robert McGhee (1903-1959) m. Janie Allen (7)
Robert spent all of his life working hard. He was a tenant farmer and her, wife Janie, and their children moved often from farm to farm. Most of his children now live in the North.

VII. Adwell McGhee (1905-1977) m. 1st Martha Christmas (1)
2nd Ruth Jones (12)
He was a barber in Philadelphia for many years. Many of his thirteen children have entrepreneural abilities and are making their way quite well in the world.

VIII. Thomas McGhee, Jr. (1908-) m. Willie New
"Mr. Personality" could be an alternate name for Tom, Jr. Possessing an easy gift of gab, he is liked by everyone. He was a barber in Philadelphia with his brother Adwell before he moved to New York.

IX. David McGhee (1911-1922) died as a child and is buried in the old graveyard.

X. Rebecca McGhee (1914-) m. Sylvester Thomas (3)
She has lived for many years in Philadelphia, where she raised her family.

XI. Lucy Irma McGhee (1916-) m. George Thompson (9)
She followed older brothers and sisters to Philadelphia.

XII. Bruce McGhee (1919-)
Unmarried, Bruce lives in Philadelphia with his sister, Rebecca.

I. Lena B. McGhee (1891-1915) m. Sideny Burt (4)

A. Colonel Burt (1909-1928)

B. Sidney Burt, Jr. (1913-1980) m. Henrietta Estes (3)
1. Thomas Sidney Burt (1934-)
2. Paul Burt (1938-)
3. Joan Burt (1940-)

C. Ethel Burt (1915-1917) twin

D. Elbert Burt (1915-1915) twin

Paul Burt, Driving one of the trucks of Tom Burt, Corp.

II. Georgia McGhee (1893-1961) m. Alfred Burwell (6)

A. George Burwell
B. John Burwell m. --- (1)
1. Debbie Burwell

C. Alphonso Burwell

D. Lucille Burwell m. Rubin Henry Berry (2)
1. Rubin Henry Berry, III
2. Patricia Berry m. --- (1)
a.

E. Doris Burwell (1930-) m. Charles Walker (3)
1. Carletta Walker (1950-)
2. Sheryl Walker (1955-)
3. Deserie Walker (1960-) m. Frazier --- (1)
a. Usha Walker (1984-)

F. Ralph Burwell (1931-) m. --- (1)
1. Gilda Burwell

III. Kittie Elnora McGhee (1895-1907)

IV. Colonel Leak McGhee (1898-1909)

V. Willie McGhee (1900-1928) m. James Davis (3)

A. Vertie Mae Davis (1920-) m. 1st Curtis Hill (2)
2nd Dave Moore

1. Lillie Mae Hill m. --- (2)
   a. Curtis ---
   b. ---
2. James Hill m. --- (2)
   a. James Hill, Jr.
   b. ---

B. Ada Davis (1922-) m. Hubert Hawley (11)
1. Catherine Hawley (1940-) m. Otha Brooks (4)
   a. Carey Lee Brooks m. --- Steed (1)
      (1)
   b. Stevie Brooks
   c. Tim Brooks
   d. Jeffrey Brooks
2. Arcelia Hawley (1942-) m. William Chaivs
3. Hubert Lee Hawley (1943-) m. Mamie Bullock (1)
   a. Michelle Hawley
4. William Hawlye (1945-)
5. Andrew Hawley (1948-) m. Judy Hunt (1)
   a. Areecha Hawley
6. Carolyn Hawley (1950-) m. Mathew Davis
7. Joseph Hawley (1952-)
8. Lafayette Hawley (1954-)
9. Adwell Hawley (1955-)
10. Jacqueline Hawley (1957-)
11. Cynthia Hawley (1967-)

C. Mack Leonard Davis (1924-) m. Martha Royster (1)
1. Sidney Davis

VI. Robert McGhee II (1903-1959) m. Janie Allen (7)

A. James Thomas McGhee (1935-) m. Geraldine --- (3)
1. Pricilla McGhee
2. Vivian McGhee
3. Tommy McGhee

B. George Herman McGhee (1937-) m. Pauline Clark (2)
1. Keith mcGhee (1961-)
2. Kirk McGhee (1963-) m. Deborah Pope (1)
   a. Marcus McGhee (1982-)

C. Lucy Mae McGhee (1938-) m. George Chavis (8)
1. George Chavis (1955-)
2. Flora Chavis (1957-)
3. Ricky Chavis (1959-)
4. Joseph Chavis (1961-)
5. Robert Chavis (1964-)
6. Ronnie Chavis (1966-)
7. Sharin Chavis (1970-)
8. Sam Chavis (1974-)

D. Robert McGhee, III (1940-) m. 1st Constance Clark (3)
2nd Caroline Smith (2)
1. Valerie McGhee
2. Robert McGhee, IV

3. Lawrence McGhee
4. Rebecca McGhee (1982-)
5. David McGhee (1983-)

E. Barbara Jean McGhee (1942-) m. Freddy Wallace (1)
1. Rita McGhee (1962-)
   a. Teja McGhee (1977-)

F. Alvis McGhee (1944-)

G. Carnell McGhee (1947-)

VII. Adwell McGhee (1905-1977) m. 1st Martha Christmas (1)
2nd Ruth J. Jones (12)

He had learned barbering before he left North Carolina for Philadelphia, so it was logical for him to continue his trade there. He worked himself up to owner-manager of a shop of three chairs. Many of his children are quite talented and are noted for their entrepreneural abilities.

ADWELL McGHEE (left)
in his barber shop

A. Lawrence McGhee (1934-) m. --- (1)
1. Wanda McGhee

B. Oswell McGhee (1947-) m. Carolyn Brown (4)
1. Oswell McGhee, Jr.
2. Anthony McGhee
3. Bryan McGhee
4. Kia Nicole McGhee

C. Glenwood McGhee (1949-)

D. Yvonne McGhee (1949-) m. --- (3)
1. Normandez McGhee
2. Benjamin McGhee
3. Kindra McGhee

E. Nathaniel Thomas McGhee (1950-) m. Shirley Solomon (5)
1. Nathaniel T. McGhee, Jr.
2. Nakeita McGhee
3. Adwell Elijah McGhee (twin)
4. Elijah Adwell McGhee (twin)
5. Shanee McGhee

F. Brenda McGhee (1952-) m. Tommy Hassell (2)
1. Tommy Hassell, Jr.
2. Schanda Hassell

G. Manderrean McGhee (1954-) m. Albert Boyer (3)
1. Albert Boyer, Jr.
2. Maurice Boyer
3. Andrea Boyer

H. Sandra McGhee (1955-) m. --- (1)
1. Anitria McGhee (1975-)

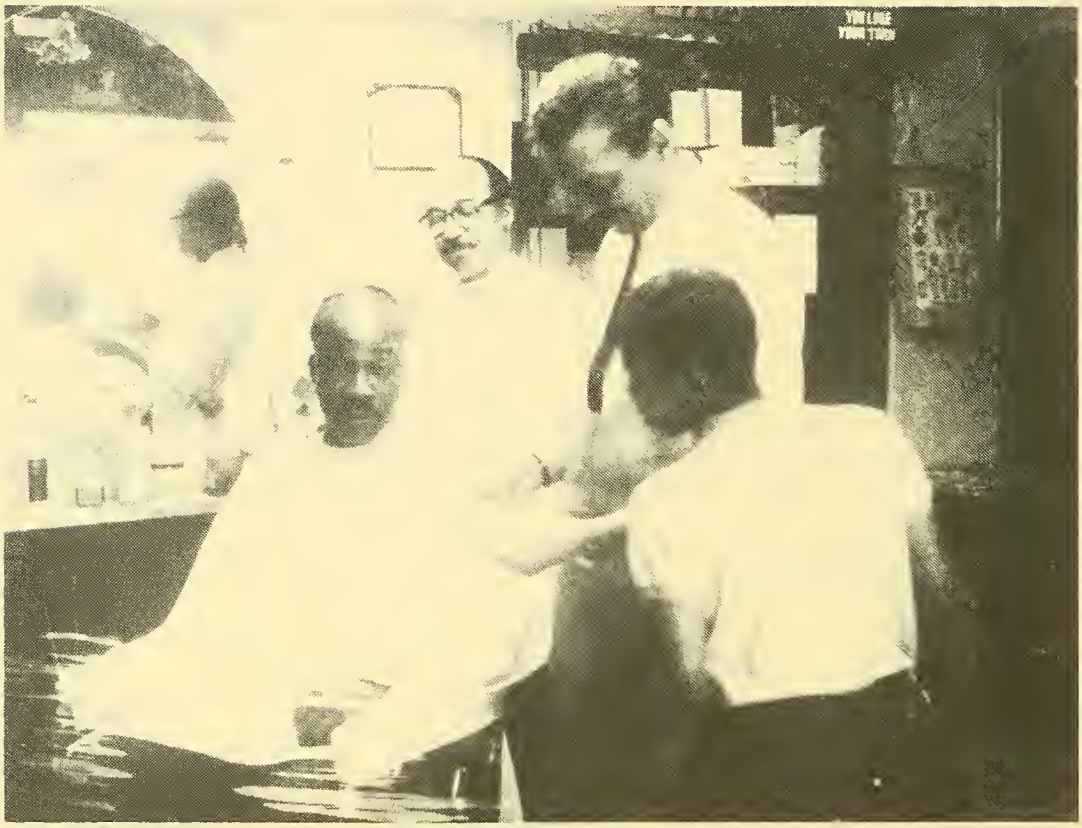
I. Gregory McGhee (1957-) m. Donna Hatchell (3)
1. Ivory McGhee (1979-)
2. Latisha Mcghee (1980-)
3. Gregory McGhee, Jr. (1984-)

J. Tyrone McGhee (1959-)

K. Lynold McGhee (1960-)

L. Grayerling McGhee (1961-)

M. Darlynda McGhee (1963-) m. --- (1)
1. Corey McGhee (1984-)



THOMAS McGHEE, JR.
the barber

VIII. Thomas McGhee, Jr. (1908-) m. Willie New
A niece said of Tom, Jr., *"If I could wish for the perfect uncle it would be Uncle Tom".* All children in the family adore him. He was a barber in Philadelphia for many years before retiring to New York.

IX. Daivd Mcghee (1911-1922)

X. Rebecca McGhee (1914-) m. Sylvester Thomas (3)

A. Sylvester Thomas, Jr. (1933-1953)

B. Barbara Thomas (1934-) m. Henry Strickland

C. Evelyn Thomas (1936-) m. Willie Young (2)
1. Gina Young (1962-)
2. Eric Young (1965-)

XI. Lucy Irma McGhee (1916-) m. George Thompson (9)

A. Sanetta MCGhee (1932-) m. --- (1)
1. Irma Jean McGhee

B. Lena McGhee (1933-) m. 1st Moses Jones (4)
2nd Odie Williams (1)
1. Cornell Jones
2. Kevin Jones
3. Janice Jones m. Joseph Mosley (1)
a. Alex Mosely
4. Wayman Jones
5. Malaku Williams

C. Malaku Thompson (1943-) m. Helen --- (1)
1. Armena Thompson

D. Lorenz Thompson (1944-)

E. Makenda Thompson (1945-) m. 1st Joe Sanders (2)
2nd --- Burnett (1)
1. Joe Sanders, Jr.
2. Carlton Sanders
3. --- Burnett

F. Emanuel Thompson (1947-) m. Darleyne --- (1)
1. Hi King Thompson

G. Reginald Thompson (1951-)

H. Shelia Thompson (1954-) m. ---- (2)
1.
2. James ---

I. Kenyatta Thompson (1960-) m. ---

CHAPTER X

MOLLIE

The Last McGhee-Hicks Union

Oh, this is the tale the grandmas tell
In the land where the grass is blue,
And some there are who say 'tis false,
And some that hold it true.

"The Ballad of the Brown Girl"
Countee Cullen

CHAPTER X

MOLLIE McGHEE HICKS
1865-1942

Mollie, the youngest of the children, was considered a good looking woman with stiff, straight black hair that she wore in a bun at the nape of her neck. She had a quiet, sweet personality which was as easy going as Fannie's was firey. Although her name was listed as "Mary" in the 1880 Census, "Mollie" was the name by which she was known.

Her husband, Otis Hicks, was a farmer who, although renting a farm in 1900 is shown in 1910 as paying off a mortgage on his own farm. Of the five girls and three boys of the family, only Little Otis chose farming as an occupation. The others who lived to be adults, marry and have children, mostly chose to go North to look for work and to escape the segregation and degradation that they felt in the South.

An example of how the extended family worked can be shown in this story which a granddaughter told.

At the end of her day of teaching in the one room school house built on the Dawes land in Huntsville, Mary (Isabella's daughter-in-law) would stop by Mollie's and say:

"Come on Aunt Mollie and spend the night with me. We'll go down to Lula's (Mary's sister and David's daughter-in-law) and listen to Joe Lewis' fight on the radio."

Ben (David's son) had bought his family a large radio in the early thirties and the room would be crowded with members of the extended family. Children and grandchildren of David, Isabella, Mollie, and Tom would sit around on these occassions straining to hear the dialect of Amos n' Andy, or the noise of the crowd at one of Joe Lewis' heavyweight boxing fights. The smaller children who were generally making too much noise playing were sent to another part of the house while the adults strained to hear every word over the static.

When the program ended and the hour got late, Mary would say, *"We've got to go now, Aunt Mollie, because I've got to get up early in the morning to get ready for school."*

Mollie's family lived in a house shaded by a big oak tree, located near the family graveyard. All of the homes were built of logs using pegs, not nails, and faced each other in a wide circle. Hers was part of the original farm that her father had willed to her. It is not known if her husband, Otis, bought or rented any additional acreage for farming. Mollie's house was filled with laughter, blessed with children with keen senses of humor who were forever playing practical jokes on each other.

One game they often played was to dare each other to do something or say something extraordinary and daring. The five girls were especially fond of this game of "chicken". One night when a storm was raging outside, one of the sisters dared the other to go outside in the dark and drive a stake in one of the graves. Because it was unheard of not to take up a dare, this sister stepped forth in the darkness, stake in hand. Unknown to her, when she drove the stake in the grave she also drove it through the hem of her long, loose dress. Turning around to leave, she found herself immobile. Thinking that surely one of the bodies had reached out of the grave to claim her, she promptly fainted on the spot.

A grand-nephew told the story of one of the sisters who was sitting down near a table when a black snake dropped down from the rafters and landed in her lap. It is told that she made the black snake into a pet.

Superstitions and belief in conjuration abounded in this family and in the entire early community as well. "Conjuration", as a magic spell was used in a retaliatory fashion to get back at somebody for some real or imagined slight. When one became sick or had bad luck it was believed that an evil spell had been cast by one's enemies.

Everyone in the larger community knew who the certain elders were who had the ability to cast a spell. A hierarchy existed in the power that the sorcerer could wield and one, feeling that he was under a bad spell, had only to go up the hierarchy to one more powerful for relief. A visit to the next most powerful person in the rigid structure could have the spell removed or weakened.

These root doctors gathered herbs and roots from the wild which they then made into powerful potions. These potions would then be dispensed in the clients' food or drink, or hidden among their personal possessions. This procedure was not done casually, but was accompanied by a ritualistic sequence of specific gestures and incantations. If the medicine worked (if one believed), from every orifice of the clients' body would emerge the evil spirits in the form of strange reptiles and various foul smelling liquids.

Cats also had some kind of special significance in this sub-culture. They were given the names of people in the community that one wanted to appear or disappear. For long lasting effects, certain magical vegetation could be planted at ones doorstep to ward off or induce an evil or good charm.

These root doctors or conjurors were revered and feared. They were considered all powerful and dangerous. One walked a wide path around these individuals, staying out of their way in fear of offending them, their family members or friends, in some way.

Mollie's family was probably no more supertitious than the others, but perhaps they talked about it more. The power of suggestion was the strength of the spell. If one threatened another by saying he/she was going to cast a spell, then the person being threatened would expect the spell to be cast and then would try to ward off the spell or retaliate. Remnants of superstitious beliefs remain in this community to this day.

This is not to infer that all of the practice of "roots" had only negative effects; much to the contrary, the persons who were reputed to have this gift also were the healers and doctors of the clan. They could heal as well as harm. Without the benefit of modern medical knowledge they cured many illness with various plants and herbs.

The grandchildren who stayed with Mollie in later years remember going to bed at night and listening to Gaberiel Heater on the radio until they fell asleep.

Mollie lived as a widow for some time after her husband, Otis, died. After her children started families of their own and moved away, she would spend some of her weekends with her sister, Isabella, and at other times with her nephew Charlie, son of Isabella. After she died in 1942, at 77 years of age, she was buried in the old family cemetary.

MOLLIE McGHEE HICKS
(1865-1942)

MOLLIE McGHEE (1865-1942) m. Otis Hicks (8)

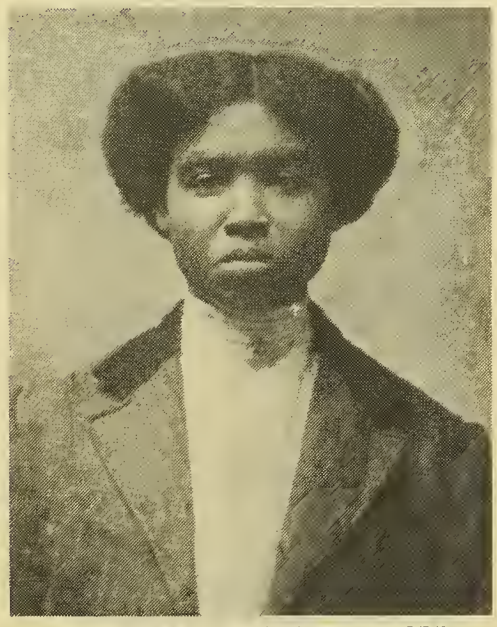
I. Hattie Bell Hicks (1888-) m. Joe Pettiford (1)
II. John T. Hicks (1889-1956) m. Sylvia Malone (1)
III. Robert L. Hicks (1891-1913)
IV. Isabella (Bell) Hicks (1894-1972) m. Willie Burt (3)
V. Annie Cornelia Hicks (1896-1970) m. Frank Burt (2)
VI. Otis F. Hicks, Jr. (1898-1946) m. Irene Young (9)
VII. Minner L. Hicks (1900-1963) m. Otis Venable
VIII. Eva Hicks (1904-1979) m. Henry Aycocks (1)

I. Hattie Bell (1888-)

The oldest child lived for awhile in Scotland Neck, North Carolina; but she died in Oxford and is buried in the old family graveyard. She and Joe Pettiford had only one son.

A. Willard Pettiford (-)

Last known to live in Virginia.



HATTIE BELL HICKS PETTIFORD

II. John T. Hicks (1889-1956)

Was a handsome young man in the eyes of those who knew him. He tried his hand at farming for awhile, but gave it up and headed North where his sister Bell and her husband, Willie Burt lived in New Jersey. Once there, Willie got John a job working in the same bakery which employed him. After John T. was there, he worked himself up to the position of supervisor. One of the first things that he did was to fire Willie Burt. John T. and his wife, Sylvis Malone, had one daughter.

A. Alberta Hicks (died in New Jersey)

III. Robert L. Hicks (1891-1913)

Mention should be made of the fact that the McGhee-Hicks combination of blood proved to be a deadly one in more than one case when it came to the lack of an ability to hold alcohol. One snowy night after an evening inbibing to the excess, he fell down on his way home and was found the next day, frozen.

IV. Isabella (Bell) Hicks (1894-1972) m. Willie Burt (3)

It was said that Bell could make the best egg-nog around, with eggs, milk, and a little corn mash. Once she hid her beer in the washing machine to keep her brothers away from it and forgetting that she had done so, started up a full washer of clothes. She had a great sense of humor which kept everyone around her laughing.

ISABELLA HICKS BURT

A. Doris Burt (1924) m. Graham Bower (6)
1. Graham Bower, Jr. m. --- (1)
a.
2. Curtis Bower m. J.C. (2)
a. Towsend Bower
b. Curtis Bower, Jr.
3. Sharon Bower m. --- (3)
a. Desiree Bower
b. Renee Bower m. --- (1)
(1)
c. Stephanie Bower m. --- (1)
(1)
4. Yvonne Bower
5. Maryann Bower m. --- (2)
a.
b.
6. Myron Bower

B. Wilburt Burt (1929-) m. Joyce Walker (2)
1. Kevin L. Burt (1955-)
2. Eric L. Burt (1958-) m. --- (1)
a. Eric L. Burt, Jr. (1978-)

C. Kenneth Burt (1931-) m. Shelly Sales (1)
1. Shalonda Burt (1974-)

V. Annie Cornelia Hicks (1896-1970) m. Frank Burt (2)

Cornelia and her husband followed Bell to New Jersey. She died and is buried there. Other than Oxford, most of her descendants live in Virginia and Maryland.

A. Thelma Hicks (1920-) m. Willie Ernest McGhee (8)
1. Willie E. McGhee, Jr. (1939-) m. Estelle Dawes (3)
a. Linda McGhee (1960-) m. James Davis (1)
(1) Alberta Davis (1980-)
b. Adrian Davis (1961-) (twin)
c. Andrew Davis (1961-) (twin)
2. Marjorie McGhee (1941-) m. Lawrence Brumwell (3)
a. Demita Ann Brumwell
b. Lisa LaSalle Brumwell
c. Marjorie Lynn Brumwell
3. Mary Alice McGhee (1943-) m. Charlie Brumwell (5)
a. Renee Brumwell
b. Chardetta Brumwell
c. Charlie Brumwell, Jr.
d. Troy Brumwell
e. Dominique Brumwell
4. Annie McGhee (1945-) m. Ernest Debnam (2)
a. Ernest Debnam, Jr. (1967-)
b. Steven Cory Debnam (1976-)
5. Arvell McGhee (1947-) m. Mattie Gregory (4)
a. Arvelle McGhee, Jr.
b. Regina McGhee
c. Latrice McGhee
d. Nicolle McGhee

6. Joseph McCoy McGhee (1949-) m. Shelia Wilkerson (3)
   a. Angela McGhee
   b. Anthony McGhee
   c. Charnetta McGhee
7. John Edward McGhee (1951-) m. Nell Webb (4)
   a. Ivery McGhee (1970-)
   b. John E. McGhee, Jr. (1972-)
   c. Reginald McGhee (1973-)
   d. Mark McGhee (1976-)
8. Anthony McGhee (1958-1959) died in infancy

B. Deloris Burt (1932-) m. Norman Spenser Glover (1)
   1. Norman "Chip" Glover m. --- (1)
      a. Nichole Glover (1977-)

VI. Otis Hicks, Jr. (1898-1946) m. Irene Young (9)

Otis, Jr. stayed with farming as an occupation. Many of his descendants have remained in Granville County in the Creedmoor area.

A. Skinner Hicks (1925-) m. Alverta Burnett (5)
   1. Bermadene Hicks m. --- (1)
      a. Aleshia Rene Hicks (1972-)
   2. Constance Hicks (1952-) m. --- (1)
      a. Eric Hicks (1974-)
   3. Ethel Hicks (1955-) m. Billy Lockett (2)
      a. Markus Lockett (1973-)
      b. Shannon Lockett (1977-)
   4. Barbara Ann Hicks (1957-) m. Charles Cheek (2)
      a. Latoya Cheek (1976-)
      b. Charles Lorenzo Cheek (1982-)
   5. Arlene Hicks (1961-) m. --- (1)
      a. Trevor Jamaal Hicks

B. Lillian Hicks (1927-1952) m. Elmo Smith (2)
   1. Pauletta Smith (1950-) m. Haywood Harris (3)
      a.
      b. Tammy Wynette Harris
      c. Haywood Harris, III
   2. Tommy Smith (1951-) m. Linda Best (3)
      a. Roderick J. Johnson (1979-)
      b. Bridgett Gailey (1980-)
      c. Robert Smith (1983-)

C. Alzata Hicks (1928-1966) m. John D. PUryear (6)
   1. Billy Puryear (1949-) m. Janet --- (1)
      a. Alzata Puryear (1970-)
   2. Ronnie Puryear (1953-) m. Janet Lewis (1)
      a. Loranda Puryear (1979-)
   3. Charles Puryear (1954-) m. Janet Bullock (1)
      a. Charles Puryear, Jr. (1976-)
   4. Harold D. Puryear (1955-) m. Catherine Murphy (1)
      a. Shiease Marche Puryear (1982-)
   5. James Arnold Puryear (1957-) m. --- (1)
      a.
   6. Anthony Puryear (1958-)

D. Rosetta Hicks (1932-) m. --- Jones (1)
1. Lawrence Jones m. Tony --- (1)
a.

E. John Thomas "Buddy" Hicks (1934-)

F. Alfred Vernon Hicks (1938-) m. Ethel Throckmorton (4)
1. Marjorie Deloris Hicks (1962-)
2. Alfreda Hicks (1963-)
3. Benjamin Hicks
4. Reginald Hicks

G. Ralph Hicks (1941-) m. Faye Fields (3)
1. Betty Ann Hicks (1967-)
2. Darlene Hicks (1969-)
3. Danny Hicks (1970-)

H. Elizabeth Hicks (1943-) m. Willie Burnett (4)
1. Anthony Burnett
2. Kathaleen Burnett (1965-)
3. Becky Burnett (1966-)
4.

I. Carl Otis Hicks (1947-)

VII. Minner L. Hicks (1900-1963) m. Otis Venable
She married late in life and did not have children. She lived in the north for awhile, but she returned to Oxford and died while living with her niece, Thelma.

VIII. Eva C. Hicks (1904-1979) m. Henry Aycocks (1)
Eva was a hard worker all her life. She lived most of her life in Oxford, but died in New Jersey.

A. Carrie Maxie Aycocks (1924-) m. Paul Hunt (1)
1. Pauletta Hunt (1955-) m. Robert Roberts (1)
a. Bryant K. Roberts (1983-)

CHAPTER XI

The Hester Connection and Other Loose Ends

Ah, yes, the chapter ends to-day;
We even lay the book away;
But oh, how sweet the moments sped
Before the final page was read!

"The End of the Chapter"
Paul Lawrence Dunbar

CHAPTER XI

THE HESTER CONNECTION AND OTHER LOOSE ENDS

Hester Connection #1

MATTIE HESTER

There is no doubt that there is a Hester connection. Too many clues appeared suddenly and disappeared just as suddenly during my inquiries about long lost relatives. This conversation, held with Rosa (daughter of David and Rose) is an example of my frustrating attempts to make a solid connection.

Aunt Rosa: *Cousin Willie Hester and his wife, Cealie Hester, had three children:*

1. Novella. She was about the age of sister Della.
2. "Buddy". That was a "nick name". I don't remember his full name.
3. Mattie. She was the youngest child, near the age of sister Minnie.

Me: *Who was Willie Hester and Cealie Hester?*

Aunt Rosa: *Willie and Cealie were both kin to my mama and my daddy although they were not kin to each other. I always heard that. But I'm not sure who was kin to which.*

Me: *Where did they live?*

Aunt Rosa: *They lived in Franklinton. Cousin Novella worked as a matron at the Colored Orphanage for awhile before she got married. Often during her free time and days off she would come to the adjoining farm and visit with the McGhees. Because she was about the same age as sister Della, daddy would let Della go down to Franklinton to visit her sometimes. Cousin Novella married a "Reid" and had one daughter named for her grandmother, Cecelia. Cecelia lived for some time in the home place in Franklinton. I've been there to visit.*

I pursued this lead to the end only to find that I was two years too late. There indeed had been an elderly Cecelia Reid who lived in Franklinton, but she had been dead two years before I knew of her, and she had no descendants. My inquiries into any papers, pictures, etc., she might have had were met with the response that all consumable items were thrown out in preparing her home for sale.

There was nothing left to do but to determine once again if the faded memories of the old ones would be borne out in written fact. A thorough search through census, marriage, and death records revealed this family did exist as it was said to be.

William H. Hester (Willie, 1856-1923) was a barber for many years in Franklinton, North Carolina. His death certificate stated that his father was also named William H. Hester while his mother was named Hanah Pearson. (This could also be a misspelling of the name Person.) His birth place and that of his mother's was in Granville County.

Cecelia (Cely or Cealie), Willie's wife, was born around 1860 in Person County, and died in 1924 in Franklin County. Her father was unnamed on the death certificate. Her mother Louisa Long (b. 1840) was living with her daughter and son-in-law in Franklin County by 1880. Presumably she was born in Person County also.

Novella - daughter, 2 years old in 1880 (b. 1877).

Wallace C. - son, aged seven months (b. 1879).

Mattie - the youngest daughter was born sometimes after the 1880 census.

The Cecelia Reid who had lived in Franklinton and died without descendants was the daughter of Novella and granddaughter of the Cecelia who had been born in Person County ca. 1860. Once again the pattern of the same name following many generations was observed. Any connection of this family to the McGhee family is now left to some future researcher who will have to make the link from available written records because no other oral history remains.

Hester Connection #2

Tradition has it that Robert had a brother who was sold to a Hester and who after the war, kept the name of Hester for his own. That brother was named Abraham, or Abram. A search of the 1900 U.S. Census does show an entry which could be that man. The great differences in the ages of Abram and his wife, in addition to the number of years they had been married, would lead one to believe that Mary Priscilla Royster was Abram's second wife, at least. The daughter Rosa, listed in the family later married a man named Robert Amos, a very successful farmer in the area. Rosa's and Robert Amos' children grew up believing they were somehow related to David McGhee's family who lived in the same township. Notice also that the oldest son in the family was named "Muke".

This is probably the same Abram Hester who was recorded living in Oxford Township in 1870 and 1880 with his wife Martha. The sequence of houses visited by the census taker those years placed him near the household of the former slaveholder Memucan (Muke) Hester (see Chapter I). If "Muke" was the one who convinced Robert and Caroline to marry, the most likely explanation is that it was he who informed them of their need to obey the law, newly enacted after the war, which required former slaves to declare their years of cohabitation as a way of making their marriages legal.

If family tradition is correct, Abram Hester and Robert McGhee had at least one parent in common. Further complicating identification was the fact that racial designation for Abram changed from "white" to "black" on various census reports. None of the attempts to place Abram and Robert on the same plantation, or to ascertain the mother of Robert were successful.

FISHING CREEK TOWNSHIP, JUNE 11, 1900

Dwelling No.	Family No.	NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family	Relation to head of family	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION							
				Color	Sex	Year of Birth	Age	Single, married, widowed, divorced	No. of years married	Mother of how many children	Number of these children living
11	8	HESTER, ABRAM	head	B	M	1828	72	M	17		
		" MARY	wife	B	F	1860	40	M	17	10	6
		" MUKE	son	B	M	1884	16	S			
		" HENRY	son	B	M	1885	15	S			
		" ROSA	daughter	B	F	1888	12	S			
		" FRANKLIN	son	B	M	1891	9	S			

Abram Hester was also a land owner, having bought his 113 acre farm located in Fishing Creek Township in 1886 from George B. Harris. It is interesting to note that this George B. was the brother of Andrew J. Harris who sold David McGhee (Abram's nephew?) a farm in 1903. Surely, this is not a conincidence. In all probability this branch of the Harris family knew the McGhees well, and over several generations. This clue, provided by Abram's grandson, Charlie Amos, was a strong one. The records needed to prove the theory are now in private hands, if they exist at all.

Abram's grandchildren by Rosa and Robert Amos (Amis?):

1. Charlie Ernest Amos (1905) no children
2. LeRoy Amos (1907) no children
3. Abraham Amos (1910) no children
4. Mary Amos (Cooper) (1911) no children
5. Elizabeth Amos (Crasson) (1914) two children
   a. Lockaley Elizabeth Crasson
   b. Gloria Helena Crasson
6. Moses Amos (1916) no children

Hester Connection #3

At the beginning of the era covered by this work, Granville County included territory which is now Vance County. The ways devised and used to transfer slaves were noted in Chapter I and in numerous other sources. It must be realized that just because this McGhee family lived in Granville County during the period outlined doesn't mean that all of the brothers and sisters of Caroline and Bob were either born there, or if they were, that they stayed there. The possibility of a Hester connection was pointed out once again by a woman, living in present day Henderson, who told of a connection which surely has some basis for it, even though I could not uncover enough information to make the fit.

She told the story of two slaves who were her ancestors, who were born near Middleburg in what is now Vance County. The man's name was Anderson Hester and his wife's name was Roxanna Hester. She said that they had had ten children. The children of that family, especially Dora, were very friendly with David McGhee's children, Blanche

and Meta, and they often visited back and forth with each other. Amanda's daughter, Ida, also often visited them. That generation, all now dead, always understood that they were somehow related to each other.

There were many Hesters and all of them held many slaves. It is not now known who the slaveholder of this couple was. Nevertheless, at least two and perhaps three men used the name Anderson Hester in documents made after the war. It was easy to infer some relationship to each other but very difficult to infer any relationship with Robert McGhee.

There was a slave couple by the name of Anderson Hester, Sr. and Germina (Mima) Hester who had at least the following children. Their ages have been extrapolated from marriage licenses.

Anderson (1846) who married Roxanna ca 1868. This information comes from census reports. No marriage or death records could be found to verify this Anderson as being the son of the other.

Ellic (1847) married Mary Jerman in 1877 in Warren County.

Haeman (1848) married Ann Wright in 1874 in Granville County.

Arthur (1849) married Julia Gregory in 1869 in Granville County.

Rhodes (1854) married Lizzie Smith in 1875 in Warren County, had at least one son, Alex (1879) who married Nannie Hawks in 1900.

Anderson Hester, Sr. (1825) married at a later time a woman named Lucy or Lucia. Together they had at least six children and the youngest one was known to have nephews and neices who were close to his age.

The children of Anderson Hester, Sr. and Lucia (Lucy) were:

Milly 1864

Major 1867

Sally 1869

Cleva 1871

Nancy 1873

Plummer 1878

Anderson Hester, Jr.'s daughter (Kitty Lena) knew Plummer as her Uncle. Plummer did marry one Mary Russell ca 1896 and had several children. Nothing else is known of Anderson, Sr.'s first set of children or second set of children except for Anderson, Jr.

Anderson Hester, Jr. married Roxanna Hester (marriage license cannot be found) and lived and worked as a farmer in the Nutbush area near the village of Middleburg in what was then Warren County. By 1900 he had moved his family to Henderson in the newly formed Vance County. He then worked as a carpenter (Anderson, Sr. was also a carpenter) while his daughters, especially Dora, became very friendly with their "cousins" from Oxford, David's Blanche and Meta McGhee.

According to 1870, 1880 and 1900 census reports, Anderson Hester, Jr. and Roxanna had the following children.

1865	Lonnie	son
1867	Mollie	daughter
1868	Rebecca	daughter
1870	Mary Ann	daughter
1872	Roberta	daughter
1873	Kissiah	daughter; later known as Kitty Lena
1875	Robert	son
1877	Dora	daughter
1878	Anna	daughter
1880	Roxie	daughter
1882	Lillie	daughter (Lily)
1883	Minnie	daughter
1884	Lessie	son
1887	Otis	son

Nothing else is known of the oldest children. The following information was supplied by Kitty Lena's (Kissiah) daughter Lucile.

V. Roberta Hester (1872-) m. James Taylor

A. Rosa Taylor (-) m. Fred Tompkins
1. Rosa Lee Tompkins m. 1st --- Epps
2nd --- Bullock
2. Fredinan Tompkins
3. Edwin Tompkins
4. Anderson Tompkins
5. Eldridge Tompkins
6. Theodore Tompkins
7. Lillie Mae Tompkins m. Johnnie Ruff
a. Arlene Ruff m. --- Bolden
(1) James Bolden
(2) Andy Bolden
8. Muriel Tompkins m. George Jones
a. George Jones
b. Adrien Jones

VI. Kittie Lena Hester (Kissiah-1873) m. George W. Claiborne (1860)

A. Nathaniel W.M. Claiborne

B. George W. Claiborne, Jr.

C. Reginal L.A. Claiborne

D. Minnie Doris Claiborne (1911) m. Bennie G. Thornton (1908)
1. Bennie G. Thornton (1948)
2. Margart Thornton (1952)
3. Nelson Thornton (1954)

E. Lucile Hester Claiborne (1915) m. William Haywood Brodie
1. William Reginald Brodie (1986) m. Mary Evans
a. William Reginald Brodie, Jr. (1964)
b. Regina Brodie (1969)

VII. Robert Hester (1875) (unknown)

VIII. Dora Hester (1877) m. William Howard
A. Rollin Howard

IX. Anna Hester (1878) m. Moses Williams

X. Roxie Hester (1880)

XI. Lily Hester (1882) m. William Harris
A. Roxanna Harris

XII. Minnie Hester (1883) m. 1st --- Kerney
2nd --- Grier

XIII. Lonnie Hester (1884)

XIV. Otis Hester (1887)

As has been previously stated, it was far easier to infer Hester relationships to each other than to infer their relationship to Robert McGhee. Another Anderson Hester (maybe the same as Anderson, Jr., maybe not) had as a mother one Mary Ann Cogwell. If that same mother had a daughter to marry an allied family of the McGhees, an explanation would be provided for family kinships.

One possible connection was found in the will of Vincent (Vinson) Cogwell, dated 1890. He named his sons: Mark, Henderson, Abram, and Frank Cogwell. Only one daughter was named, Martha Ann, who had married a Norman. It was rather easy to conclude that this husband was Johnson Norman, son of Lucinda (Big Cindy) and brother of Rose (see Chapter V). In fact, David's second daughter was named Martha Ann (Matt) after Martha Ann Cogwell Norman. An even closer reading of Vincent Cogwell's will revealed that his wife, Mary Ann, had two additional sons who were not his. One was named Willis Moss and one was named Anderson Hester. This inter-relatedness of the Cogwell and David McGhee families was sufficient for David McGhee's children to be blood related to the descendants of Martha Ann Cogwell Norman through their mother Rose and "kissing cousins" to the descendants of Anderson Hester. Until the specific slaveholder by the name of Hester could be identified, a closer relationship could not be established.

. . .Yet Another Loose End

The year is 1944. Far back in the woods about 2½ miles from Wilton off the old Franklinton Road, a man bent with age, face wrinkled from years of working the land under a scorching sun, rests against his plow to survey the freshly turned furrow. The steer pulling the plow is unhitched and led back to the pasture for the evening. Suddenly, the animal turns on his keeper and strikes out at him with horns and hoofs. The old man's wife, over eighty years old herself, grabs a nearby pitchfork and drives it to the hilt into the beast. A neighbor who happens to have his gun with him comes upon the fracas and finishes off the bull with one well placed shot. It is too late. The man is dead.

The man was Thomas McGhee and his wife was Linda Floyd and the telling of their story would be another book in itself where the true telling of it would be far stranger than fiction.

I arrived at the modest house that day in 1983 armed with the usual tape recorder and note pad, my head swimming with the knowledge of one James McGehee, born around 1825 who in 1876 sued his wife, Winnie for divorce. I had come to the tentative conclusion that James could have been Robert's brother and that Robert could have been born in the Wilton area before being moved to Oxford Township. With no other information than that which the Census reports (1870, 1880, & 1900) showed, I knew that James and Winnie had had several children, one of which was Thomas, and I had arrived to try to make a connection.

I never ceased to be amazed at the openness with which complete strangers talked with me when my only credential was the name we shared; origin unknown. Willie McGhee was no exception. I'll let him tell his story.

Willie McGhee:

Tom McGhee was my grandfather. He had a half brother, Mose McGhee. . .but Mann McGhee was his entire brother. My grandfather had some half-sisters too, but I don't remember their names. . .

My grandfather had two sons, my father "Squat" (Marvin), and his brother Charlie. I've seen Mose McGhee one time in my life. . . up North, you known in Pennsylvania. . . Lindy Floyd was my grandfather's wife. . .

Granddaddy Tom raised me. . .he raised me until I was 22 years old and left home. . . Granddaddy remembered when _____ (some General during the war) came through here and drew water down at John Whitfield's old home place in Brassfield. He told a lot of things that have slipped my mind. . .I don't want to say something that is not so. . .

"Squat" was my father. He died when I was a baby. After my father died, we children were scattered all over the place. . . One child here, one child there. . . Until my Uncle Charlie came across me and took me away from the people I was living with. . . I was riding in the buggy with Leonard Hunter. . . I was very small and had on nothing but a dress. . .Uncle Charlie asked:

"Where did you get that boy from?"

"He was given to me."

"That's my brother's boy!" . . . and he took me out of the buggy and took me down to my grandfather's to be raised. . . off the old Franklinton Road, near Gooch's store. . .

Grandpa plowed with a steer. The steer killed him. . .

The black McGhees all come up under the same plantation...We were somehow connected with McGhee Horner...he used to run a big supply store... There was a bunch of Fowlers -- Uncle Charlie and Windom Fowler played together as children... There was an Anderson in there somewhere, too... I heard tell that there was some McGhees in Oxford somewhere."

The James McGehee who had started this family probably was the slave named in the will of Lemuel McGehee (Will Book #16, pp. 510-511). Lemuel left to his wife, Susanah, the slaves Oliver and Ann during her widowhood, and the slave James during her lifetime. It is interesting to note that after James and Winnie were divorced in 1876, Winnie made a home for herself and her children by buying a 5 7/8 acre plot of land in 1880 from Stephen E. Dement and his wife Ann (Deed Book #33, pp. 428-429).

Descendants of James lived around the Wilton area of Granville County or near Franklinton in present day Franklin County. I was never able to make a connection of those McGhees with Robert even though I believed at first that some connection did exist. Most of the information that I did find and used to trace the descendants of James, is available in U.S. Population Census records.

JAMES McGEHEE (1825-) m. in 1865 Winnie Champion (1830-) (sometimes listed as Green)

By 1900, James was dead and Winnie was a 70 year old widow living with her son, Moses. The reconstructed family of eight children is as follows:

I. Manuel (1854-) who married Roxie Smith

II. Thomas (1856-1944) who married Linda Floyd

III. John (1859-) (unknown)

IV. Jenny (1862-) who apparently died young

V. Pauline (1864-) (unknown)

VI. Moses (1868-) He was listed as single in 1900. In the household with him was the widowed Winnie, and a nephew named Omega.

VII. Ada (1873-) who married a Henry Davis

VIII. Emma (1875-) (unknown)

I. Manuel McGhee (1854-) m. Roxey Smith (6)

A. James McGhee (1885-)

B. Henry McGhee (1887-) m. Amanda White (1)
1. Flora McGhee (-) m. --- (2)
a. Pat (twin)
b. Clyde (twin)

C. Edward McGhee (1889-) m. Alma Gay Peace (2)
1. Vlatier Marion McGhee (1917-)
2. Edward McGhee, Jr. (1920-)

D. Burlie (Polly) McGhee (1890-1927) m. Charlie Hicks (2)
1. Estelle Hicks (1912-)
2. Lula Bell Hicks (1915-1920)

E. Jonas "Lem" McGhee (1898-1919) went to Pennsylvania

F. John McGhee (1900-1929) m. Corina Alston (4)
1. Willie Gladys McGhee m. Isiah Taborn (4)
a.

b.
c.
d.

2. Queen Esther McGhee m. Robert Kelly (1)
   a. Robert Kelly, Jr.
3. Nadine McGhee m. Joseph Robinson (2)
   a. Jerone McGhee
   b. Tyrone McGhee
4. John Oliver McGee (1926-) m. Sallie Claud (3)
   a. Sean McGee (1964-)
   b. Eric McGee
   c. Kevin Patrick McGee

II. Thomas McGhee (1856-1944) m. Linda Floyd (2)

A. Charlie McGhee (1882-1961) m. Lena Clay (7)
   1. J.Y. McGhee (1905-1950) m. Mattie Maye Fuller (3)
      a. Glayds Maye McGhee (1932) died as a baby
      b. Leroy McGhee (1934-) m. Lela Kearney (2)
         (1) Dale Tonette McGhee (1961-) (twin)
         (2) Gale Yvette McGhee (1961-) (twin)
      c. Shirley Jean McGhee (1950-) m. Bobby Johnson
   2. Arthur Thomas McGhee (1906) (twin) died as a baby
   3. Charlie Thomas McGhee (1906) (twin to Arthur)
   4. Lallie G. McGhee (1908-1927) m. "Mert" Howard (2)
      a. Bennie Howard (1934-)
      b. Darnell Howard (1939-)
   5. Willie Laurence McGhee (1910-1982) m. Mamie Louise Mills (1)
      a. Willie Laurence McGhee, Jr. (1947-)
   6. Ollie Lewis McGhee (1912-1979) m. Christine Lyons
   7. Erma McGhee (1914-) m. Burnice Harris

B. Marvin "Squat" McGhee (1886-1913) m. Sarah Brown (1)
   1. Willie McGhee (1912-) m. Mary Estelle Rochelle (4)
      a. Willie Thomas McGhee (1956-)
      b. Jerry Wayne McGhee (1961-) m. Betty Taborn (1)
         (1) Jessica McGhee (1984-)
      c. Ellen Jean McGhee (1964-)
      d. Pamela McGhee (1968-)

III. John McGhee (1859-) (unknown)

IV. Jenny McGhee (1862-) died young

V. Paulina McGhee (1864-) (unknown)

VI. Moses McGhee (1868-) last known in Pennsylvania

VII. Ada McGhee (1873-) m. Henry Davis

VIII. Emma McGhee (1875-) (unknown)

This family lived in the Wilton area of Granville County all of their lives, and worshiped in the Union Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church there. Many of the deceased members of this family are buried in that church's graveyard. Thomas, the most well known of this family, was rememberd as a quiet, closed-mouthed man, who kept all of his business to himself. Any indications that the family had relatives in Oxford were from people in the community, and not from Tom.

Some Closing Personal Thoughts

Tracking down the members of this family was time consuming to be sure, but ever so much fun! As I talked or corresponded with cousins distant in blood and miles I was struck more than once with what I tentatively labeled as personality characteristics that appeared to be shared by all branches of the family. Most notable among these traits was the inclination to speak bluntly and directly. A meaning was never hidden in excess verbiage or convoluted reasoning. What was meant was said, plainly, with an abruptness bordering on rudeness. It was almost uncanny how this plain speaking was handed down through the generations. No McGhee ever learned that when silence is golden, it's foolish to speak. Doubtless, this tendancy got more than one of them into serious trouble, particularly in the early years in the south. Coupled with this plain speaking was noted a very high, positive self-concept that could be (and often was) taken by outsiders as arrogance or presumptuousness. It wasn't that at all, but it surely was self-assurance and confidence in oneself. This was apparent in relatives irrespective of level of education or station in life, and regardless of fate's cruelty or kindness.

All of this came together for me one Sunday morning as I lay sleeping late only to be jarred awake by the insistent ringing of the bedside telephone. A distant relative was calling (with charges reversed) from a large northern city, not to tell me the names and birth years of her children or to tell me what a wonderful thing I was doing by writing the family history, but to inquire as to who in the hell I was to ask such personal questions of her. Although my cover letter had explained all that was necessary, there was nothing I could say that Sunday morning to explain or appease. Tempers flared — on both sides. It was much later in the day that I was able to identify quick-temperness as another family characteristic; quickly aroused and just as quickly subdued. Later, that particular relative did send me the information I had requested.

Members of the extended family left the South for the "promised land" of the North in two waves; the late teens and early 20's and again during the great depression years. They turned away from farming in droves as they sought a better life for themselves in the jungles of the North. Knowing of their adversion (inability?) to taking orders and innate stubbornness, one can only speculate as to how they fared during the 60's and the racial unrest which so many of the large eastern cities experienced. They did survive.

Somehow, I had never been able to identify with what I had read of black families and black family life. In fact the literature I had read in school emphasized that there was no such thing as a black family that was not matriarchal. That structure was so foreign to me and to anyone in my world that I had not heard of it until the term was coined by sociologists in the 1960's. Perhaps it was not considered endemic to this race until then, and even at that, perhaps it was only seen as endemic by those who were fortunate enough to get their works published. The people that I knew were neither rich nor famous. They lived out the lives given them in quiet dignity and humility, minding their own business and taking care of each other. They lived frugally, drudgingly, coaxing a living from the rich earth. They lived as a family.

I originally did not intend to write a genealogy, only a family history, until I saw how difficult it was to do one without the other. There was no other way I could devise to separate the dozen men and women named Frank(lin), Daivd, James, Joseph, Benjamin, Robert, Caroline, Lucinda, Alexander, Thomas, etc. The names repeated themselves over many generations and this custom provided me with the strongest clues to relationships once the research reached the ante bellum ear. It was the strongest clue to trace a people who had their surnames taken from them and had only first names and a slaveholder's plantation with which to identify themselves.

In the beginning, I was naive enough to believe that part of Martin Luther King's dream had been realized, i.e., that the descendants of slaves and the descendants of slaveholders would one day, if not walk hand in hand, at least be able to talk openly with each other concerning their mutual history. I was never more mistaken. Twice when my sure bets of finding answers reached absolute dead ends I became frustrated enough to try hiring white genealogists to research a point or two. I had thought that their years of experience would provide them with the skills to ferret out information from places that I had overlooked. Although they had placed their names in the public domain as available for this type of work for a fee they were always too busy to work for me. Whatever work had to be done

would have to be done by me.

Another example: The descendants of the slaveholders of this family knew of my searching activities early on. The ones who tried to be helpful did not have relevant information; the ones who had kept pertinent, written information handed down through many generations were too suspicious of what I was doing to share any information about my ancestors with me. Certainly part of the explanation could lie in their responsibility for and guilt about miscegenation. The old ones of my family told stories about the young sons of slaveholders who were usually given night patrol duties. Rowdy laughter and the sounds of their approaching horses was enough for the male slaves to flee the beds of their wives or suffer unspeakable consequences. However, all of this happend so long ago that the sins of the fathers have certainly dissipated with time. I was never able to fathom the true origin and depth of the paranoia I saw nor could I devise any means to successfully obliterate it.

Slaveholders did not become worse or better human beings due to the single fact of holding slaves. Within the context of that terrible institution there were men who were evil and men who were good, sensitive and insensitive, caring and unfeeling, just as there have always been and always will be. A contributing factor to the hesitancy of the descendants of slaveholders to talk with me or to let me examine the records they had privately retained of their ancestors was surely a fear that I would write of them in an unfavorable light. It was as if denial of that era in our mutual past would somehow change history. I had no desire to alter the past, only to reveal it.

A prevalent myth in the literature written about this era is the one surrounding the favoritism shown the children of the slaveholder which had been borne by his female slaves, and direct references to their having a head start and an unfair advantage over those whose heritage remained unmixed with the blood of the oppressors. The general tone of these allegations remains to this day and is inherently racist in content and intent. This preoccupation with color of skin and texture of hair has done much to lower the self-esteem of a large segment of the Afro-American population through the years and has encouraged divisiveness among us. Although this family was classified as mulattos, there is no evidence that their lives were enhanced by this fact alone when the factors of the personality and character of the slaveholder were taken into account. Slavery was slavery. Families were separated by auction or trade, young children taken from their mothers, bare backs beaten and bodies kicked in this family as in thousands of others. I deliberately chose not to emphasize this because so much has already been written about it. Some of those who held members of this family in bondage were kind to them, others were cruel. Even so, slave or master, we have had a profound, irreversible effect upon each other which will be recorded in history as one of the most unique relationships on the face of the earth.

I set out to chronicle the lives of two people,Robert and Caroline, as they were born and grew up in slavery. This modest aim was circumvented time and again by the institution of slaveryitself. Without a doubt, the most damming factor in that institution was the deliberate separation of families which made relationships between them difficult, if not impossible, to establish.

Now, nearly a century and a quarter have passed and, since the subjects of this work were mostly mulattoes, it still bogles the mind that a man could and did sell his own children. It was not unusual for slaveholders to manumit, or set free their mulatto children. This did not happen to this family of McGhees. On the contrary, there is talk that some relatives were sent to Alabama while others fled to Ohio and West Virginia. One need not be clairvoyant to imagine the total stress which Robert must have felt in seeing his family on the auction block. It is still a mystery how he amassed enough money to offer as an inducement to a local buyer rather than see them leave the county.

To bring closure to my search would entail my examining bibles, account books, and other records which have either been destroyed or are now in private hands. Unfortunately, Blacks were not allowed to learn to read nor write more often than not, therefore, all records kept during this period of time were those made by the slaveholders themselves. Some members of the white families involved have given numerous volumes of materials to the Southern Historical Collection where they are lovingly kept and made available to the serious historical scholar, but the records which I sought are not among them. Recently, white genealogists have began to include all slaves named in documents they inspect while writing their own histories. This trend is laudable, and I hope it continues. Even though many years have passed since that period of our mutual history ended, old wounds still run deep and suspicions, bordering on paranoia, linger. My greatest wish is that, if not I, then some future generation of our families can complete what I have begun.

G. B. Harris & wife
To
Abram Hester.

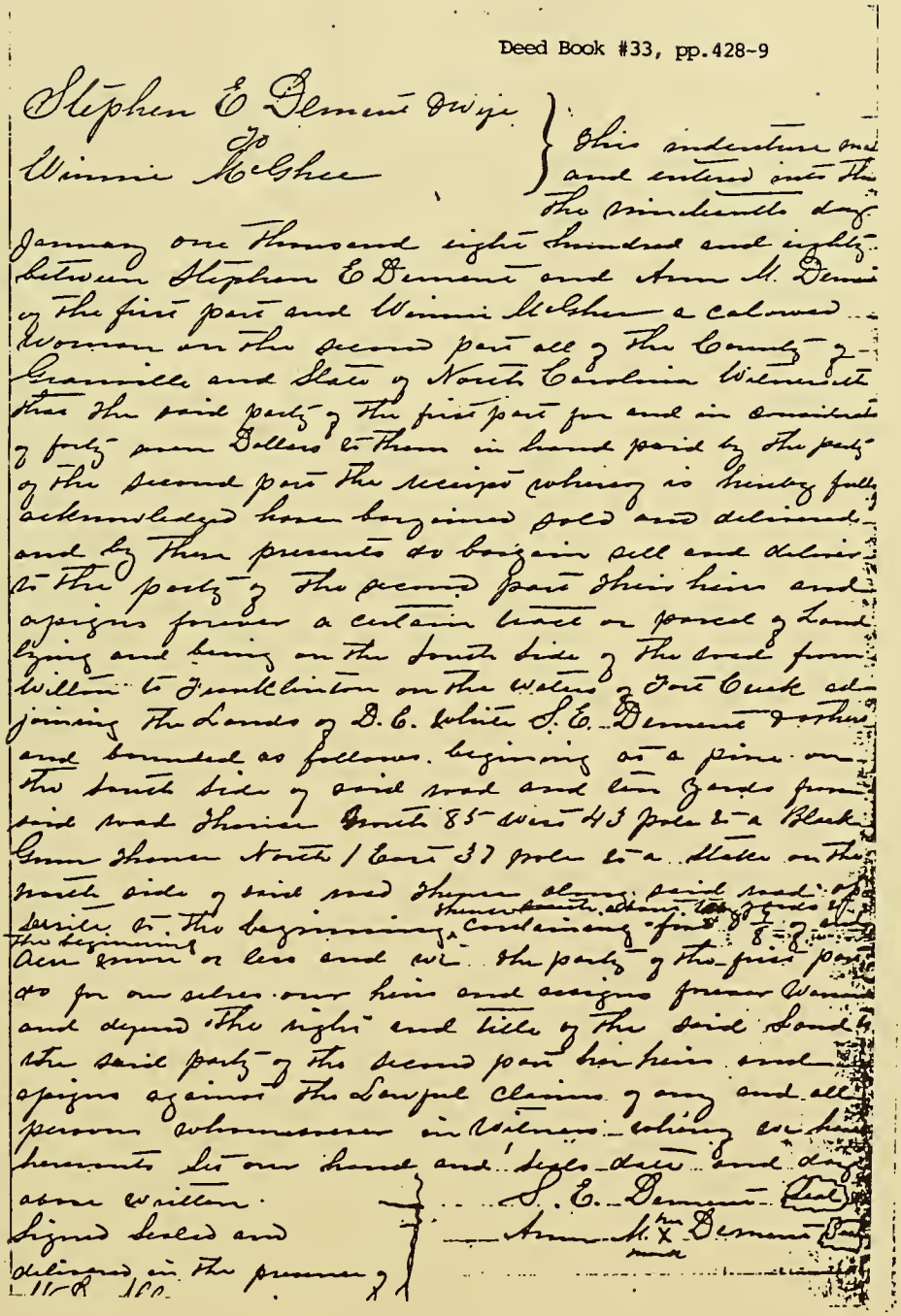
State of North Carolina
Vance County.

This deed made this the 26th day of August A.D. 1886 by George B. Harris and wife Anna B. Harris of the county of Vance & state of North Carolina parties of the first part to Abram Hester of Granville County & state of North Carolina of the second part, witnesseth that said George B. Harris and wife in consideration of the sum of twelve hundred & forty three dollars in hand paid or secured to be paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents have bargained, sold conveyed and delivered and by these presents do bargain, sell, convey and deliver to said Abram Hester his heirs and assigns forever a certain tract or parcel of land in Granville county state aforesaid adjoining the lands of D. Y. Hunt Mrs V. A. Mitchell, Acuff, Jackson Kimball and the Oxford and Kittrell road and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a planted stone Sixteen feet North of J. R. Bradfords line and in ~~Kimball~~ Kimballs line running North 20.30 chains to a planted stone Hester and Kimballs corner thence East 9 chains to a planted stone Hester and Kimballs corner thence North 30.20 chains to a planted stone in D. Y. Hunts line; thence with said Hunts line North 88° West 18.70 chains to a planted stone Hunts corner, thence South 1° West 1.50 Chains to

George B. Harris & wife Abram Hester (1886). Deed Book #39, pp. 499-501.

a stump and stone Mitchells corner,
thence south with Mitchells and Acuffs
line 36.75 Chains to a planted stone Acuffs
corner thence west with acuffs line 28.25
chains to a planted stone Acuffs corner
thence south with Acuffs line to the centre
of Oxford & Henderson road, thence with said
within 16 feet of
road to H J Dements corner, thence in a line
16 feet North of and parallel with J.R. Brad-
lords line 23.80 chains to the beginning con-
taining 113 acres more or less To have and to
hold the aforesaid tract of land and all
and singular the privileges and appur-
tenances thereto belonging to him the
said Abram Hester his heirs and assigns
in fee simple forever to their only use and
behoof And the said George B Harris doth
covenant to & with the said Abram Hester
his heirs & assigns that said George B Harris
is seized of said land in fee & has a
legal right to convey the same in fee
simple and that it is free from any in-
cumbrance whatsoever and that he will
warrant and defend the said title to the
~~same~~ against the legal claim of any person
whatsoever. In testimony whereof the said parties
of the first part have hereunto set their hands and
affixed their seals the day and date first above written

George B Harris (Seal)
Anna B Harris (Seal)



Deed Book #33, pp.428-9

Stephen E Dement & wife
To
Winnie McGhee

This indenture made and entered into this the nineteenth day January one thousand eight hundred and eighty between Stephen E Dement and Ann M. Dement of the first part and Winnie McGhee a colored woman on the second part all of the County of Granville and State of North Carolina Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of forty seven Dollars to them in hand paid by the party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby fully acknowledged have bargained sold and delivered and by these presents do bargain sell and deliver to the party of the second part their heirs and assigns forever a certain tract or parcel of Land lying and being on the South side of the road from Wilton to Franklinton on the waters of Fort Creek adjoining the Lands of D. C. White S. E. Dement & others and bounded as follows. beginning at a pine on the South side of said road and ten yards from said road Thence North 85 West 43 pole to a Black Gum Thence North 1 East 37 pole to a Stake on the north side of said road Thence along said road opposite to the beginning, thence south about ten yards of the beginning containing four 8/8 of an acre more or less and we the party of the first part do for our selves our heirs and assigns forever warrant and defend the right and title of the said Land to the said party of the second part her heirs and assigns against the Lawful claims of any and all persons whomsoever in Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seals date and day above written.

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of

S. E. Dement (Seal)
Ann M. X Dement (Seal)
mark

Stephen E. Dement & wife to Winnie McGhee (1880). Deed Book #33, pp. 428-429.

APPENDIX A
LAND DEED AND LAST WILL OF ROBERT's

Bettie K Burwell
To
Robert McGehee

This Indenture made and entered into between Bettie K Burwell of the first part & Robert McGehee of the second part all of the County of Granville & State of North Carolina Witnesseth that the said Bettie K Burwell for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred & Sixty dollars, the receipt whereof in full is hereby acknowledged, has bargained and sold and does hereby bargain, sell, convey, and deliver to the said Robert McGehee a certain tract or parcel of land situated in the said County of Granville in Oxford township, adjoining Billy Smith & others and bounded as follows. Beginning at a large Gum tree on a Branch and running thence South 7° West 21 chains to a Stone & pointers; thence North 72° West 39 chains 25 links to a Stone & pointers; thence North 7 East 6 chains 25 links to a Stake & pointers, Billy Smith's Corner; thence South 72° East 20 chains to a Stone Corner; thence North 7 East 10 chain to a Red Oak on the Branch; thence down the Branch as it meanders to the first Station; containing forty five acres, To have and to hold to him the said Robert McGehee his heirs and assigns forever free and discharged from all claims that may arise or grow out of any action, conniance, charge or other contract whatsoever of the said Bettie K Burwell who hereby binds & obliges herself and her heirs forever to warrant and defend the said premises to the said Robert McGehee and his heirs & assigns. In testimony whereof the said has set her hand & seal the day and year above written.

Witness
J. S. Amis

Bettie K Burwell (Seal)

Bettie K. Burwell to Robert McGehee (1880). Deed Book #33, p. 335.

I Robert McGhee considering the uncertainty of the mortal life, and being of sound mind and memory, (Blessed be almighty God for the same) do make and publish this my last will and testament, in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Caroline McGhee the use improvements and income of my dwelling house lands and appurtenances situate on the same to have and to hold the same to her for and during her natural life. Second I give and bequeath to my nine children the above named lands and appurtenances to be divided among them in manner and form below Viz Fannie Pool Amanda Faison Frank McGhee David McGhee Isabella Hicks Fred McGhee Hoy McGhee Thomas McGhee Nellie Hicks upon the death of my beloved wife Caroline. Third I give and bequeath to my son Thomas McGhee, nine acres of above named lands situate on the North East corner of said lands including the dwelling house which I now live in, said lands are joined on the East by Cyrus Smith North by James Codson, Fourth I give and bequeath to my son Fred McGhee nine acres of the aforesaid lands to situate West of said Thomas McGhee willed, joined in West by John Bank and North by James Codson, Fifth I give and bequeath to my said son Hoy McGhee nine acres of the aforesaid lands, situate on the South east of the aforesaid lands including the dwelling house in which he and lives in bounded on the East by Normal Bunnell, South I give and bequeath to my said daughter Nellie Hicks nine acres of the afore said lands situate on the West of the aforesaid lands and South of said Fred McGhees willed South I give and bequeath to my other five children mentioned above the remaining nine acres of said lands to be equally divided among them Viz. Fannie Pool Amanda Faison Isabella Hicks David McGhee and Frank McGhee, Eight as to all the rest residue and remainder of my personal estate goods & chattles of what kind and nature soever, I give and bequeath to my said beloved wife Caroline as long as she may remain my widow, but on her decease or marriage I desire to my said children to be divided among them. Tenth, (Provided) Thomas that I forclose acres more or less of wooded land and when as the land given in the will to the children in part being now wooded I desire that the wood on said 12 acres more or less be equally divided among the said nine children, Tenth I nominate and appoint my

Last Will and Testament of Robert McGhee (1902). Will Book #25, pp. 515-516.

David McGhee as sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament
Hereby revoking all former wills and testaments made by me. In witness
whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, This second of April
in the year of our Lord One Thousand nine hundred (1900)

Robert his mark McGhee (seal)

The above instrument consisting of one double sheet of paper was at
here subscribed by Robt McGhee the testator in the presence of each of
us and at same time declared by him to be his last will and testament
And we at his request sign our name hereunto as attesting witnesses

G. C. Shaw Oxford N.C. Granville Co.
Henry Taylor his mark

North Carolina
Granville county } In Superior Court
In the matter of the Will } Before the Clerk
of Robt McGhee dead }

The paper writing hereto attached
and purporting to be the last will and testament
of Robert McGhee dead is exhibited before the undersigned Clerk of the
Superior court of Granville county North Carolina by Fred McGhee one of the
sons of said Robert McGhee and one of the devisees therein named
and therein before the following proof thereof is taken by the oath and examination
of G. C. Shaw and Henry Taylor the subscribing witnesses thereto as follows

North Carolina
Granville county } G. C. Shaw and Henry Taylor being duly sworn deposes and say
and each for himself deposes and says that he is a subscribing
witness to the said paper writing now shown him, purporting to be the last
will and testament of Robert McGhee, and that he saw Robert McGhee
execute this writing as his last will and testament, and that affiants and each
of them attested it in the presence of and at the request of said Robert McGhee and
And at the time of its execution, said Robert McGhee was in affiants opinion of sound
mind and disposing memory

G. C. Shaw
Henry his mark Taylor

Severally subscribed and sworn before me this 20 April 1912

J. G. Shaw C.S.C.

And here upon it is considered and adjudged by the Court that the
said paper writing and purporting to be the last will and testament of Robert McGhee dead
And it is ordered that the same with the foregoing examination and this
Certificate be recorded and filed

This 20th day of April 1912 J. G. Shaw C.S.C. Granville Co

APPENDIX B

DEED ABSTRACTS OF TRANSFERS OF SLAVES

Deed Book #17
Deed Book #18
Deed Book #19
Deed Book #20
Deed Book #21

The methods used to transfer slaves were numerous and varied. Although some transactions involving slaves were never recorded, many were named in marriage contracts and settlements and in documents called mortgages. The bills of sale were straight forward and complete, deeds of gift were helpful in revealing the relationships between devisors and devisees, while deeds of trust were far more complicated. Most often these deeds of trust were made for specified crops of corn, tobacco, fodder and shucks, wheat, oats, rye, cattle, heads of hogs and the like. Slaves were often named in these deeds along with land and growing crops, which could then be sold by the trustee only if required by any of the creditors named in the deed.

The county Deed Books served as the repositories for these deeds of trust, bills of sale and transfers of land. Marriage contracts and deeds of gifts were also recorded in these books. Abstracts of some of these transactions are presented here as a service to the serious researcher or genealogist searching for Black ancestors who were either born or lived at one time in Granville County, North Carolina. Although not all deeds were perused, these abstracts are of one hundred and sixty entries, from five deed books, that name over four hundred slaves.

DEED BOOK #17
Abstracts of Transfers of Slaves

Bailey, Mary to son Henderson Bailey "A certain Negro girl by the name of Nancy." (Deed of Gift p. 262)

Eaton, John L. to Robert F. Sturdevant. $600.00 "Negro slave by the name Isaac," . . .4 January 1854, Feb. 1854 court registered. (Bill of sale, p. 433)

Frazer, Elizabeth to Stephen Blackwell for "$500.00 in full payment for woman Lucy Ann and her three children Mary, George and Faithy" dated 1853; registered 1853. (Bill of sale, p. 230)

Frazier, Elizabeth to Stephen Blackwell . . .$500.00 "Lucy Ann, George and Faithy". October 11, 1852 (Bill of sale, p. 180)

Hankins, George to William P. Hankins ". . .The foregoing deed was duly executed. . . Lucinda and her four children, Lilla, Armstead, Curtis & Frederick, also Negro boys Sam and George, to have & to hold, . . .$1,850.00" September 8, 1852 Deed, p. 87)

Hargrove, Hartwell, to Israel Hargrove ". . .I, Hartwell W. Hargrove. . . as an agent of William R. Hargrove, of the county of (??) of the State of Texas. . .sold unto Israel hargrove. . .Negro girl named Amanda for the sum of $725.00." May Court, 1853 (Bill of sale, p. 205)

Jenkins, Rob and Mary to Benjamin Norwood. "Amy, Milly, child, Elvira and Peter. . .foregoing conveyance. . ." (1853, p. 124)

Mitchell, Millie to son Ambrose Mitchell ". . .Dave and Joshua which slaves I do not wish him to account for in the final divising of my estate after my death." November, 1853. (Deed of Gift, p. 314)

Norwood, Benjamin to Nancy Pitchford. ". . .Peter, Milly & child & Amy, child." (p. 123)

Norward, Elizabeth, relinquishes her right in the slaves ". . .Amy, Melly & child, Eliven and Peter. . ." to Nancy Pitchford. July 16, 1852. (p. 119)

Norwood, Joseph to Wesley Pitchford. . .$1.00. . ."Peter, Elvira, Amy, Milley and their children and all their increase." Dec. 14, 1853. (Bill of sale, p. 122)

Parham, Lewis and Ada Parham to James Floyd. . .$50.00. . . "one Negro woman by the name of Lucy." sold 1851, Registered October 1853. (Bill of sale, p. 260)

Pool, Thomas W. to D. P. & D. A. Paschall. . . "$800.00 for Negro Woman Julia, eighteen years old, and her two children Fanny, three years old and Henry, one year old." January 19, 1852. (Bill of sale, p. 37)

Vass, Thomas, to Robert H. Vass for $125.00. ". . . a Negro girl Fany, daughter of woman Jane". June 6, 1853. (Bill of sale, p. 179)

Wright, Warren to Russell Kingsbury, $2,300.00. . . ". . .Four slaves Hester, Smish, Harriett and Wallier." 1852. (Bill of sale, p. 95).

DEED BOOK #18
Abstracts of Transfers of Slaves

Allen, Christine, to Martha E. Barker . . .to my daughter. . ." a certain Negro girl by the name of Jane". (Deed of gift, 7 Jan 1855, p. 379)

Allen, James and Thomas B. to Mary Allen & others . . ."certain Negroes named Ferrel, Charity, Elizabeth. . ." (Deed, 26 January 1854, p. 58)

Allen, Joseph to James Allen ". . .a certain Negro boy named Lewis" for eleven hundred and fifty dollars and twenty-five cents (Deed, p. 67)

Blacknall, Charity B. to John Blacknall (her brother). . . "in consideration of the love and affection which I have and bear to my brother. . . a Negro girl named Ann, aged about twenty years and her infant child aged about six or seven weeks". (Deed of gift, p. 30)

Cannady, Sam H. to Allen C. Perry. . . the following Negro slaves. . . "Presly, Aesey and their increase forever." (Deed of gift, 24 Jan 1855, p. 238)

Cox, James D. to James M. Wiggins. . . land. . . plus interest in Negroes "Amy, Anne, Anderson, Green and Edmund." (7 Dec. 1838, registered November Court 1854, p. 233)

Cutts, Sarah to John W. Rice . . ."One Negro man Peter also one woman Margaret and girl Missourie Ellen the said Negroes are now hired out. . ." (Deed of trust, May 2, 1854, p. 52 and p. 99)

Frazier, Charles H. & Isabella Hunt to A. Landis . . ."Negro slaves Chana, Henry, Judy, David, Lawrence, Maurice, Littleberry, Washington, & Moses, nine in number. . ." (Marriage contract, 29 Aug. 1854, p. 142)

Gilliam, L. Sherrif to R. B. Gilliam, . . . full purchase money "for Negro man Henry sold by me as sherrif of Granville County by virture of. . . executions in favor of Stephen Wilson against Thomas Kean and Phebe Kean. . ." (Bill of sale, 9 Aug 1837, reg Nov. 1854, p. 256)

Gilliam, L., Sherrif, to R.N.J.D.C. Herndon. . . "$50 for the purchase money of Doct H.T. Roysters interest in a Negro man by the name of Frank now in the possession of Col. Thomas R. Reekes (?), sold by virtue of sundry executions in my hands at the instance of Mary D. Hester. . ." (Bill of sale, 8 Nov. 1854, p. 268)

Halliburton, Louisa to Robert Sanford, (her brother) "a Negro girl Louisa. . . about nine years old." (Deed of gift, 5 Nov. 1855, p. 592)

Hamlet, William to Edward H. Hicks. . . ($800 in full for a Negro woman Sinah which woman I have this day sold to said Hicks" (Bill of sale, 2 Jan 1854, p. 532)

Hart, M. L. to Abraham W. Venable. . . "following Negroes, Martha, Stephen, Willis, Hellman, Ralph and Lucy." (Deed of Trust, 21 Sept 1855, p. 473)

Hawkins, Mary F. to William Hawkins. . . "a certain Negro girl slave named Catherine about eight years old. . . ." (Deed of gift, 24 June 1853, p. 240)

Hicks, Abner, to Daniel Stone. . . "My Negroes Merinda and her two children Arthur and Hannah. . ." (Deed of gift, 12 Nov 1855, p. 597)

Hicks, Edward H., to Thomas C. Hicks. . . (among other things. . .) "the following slaves Lucinda, aged about twenty years with all her increase from the date hereof. . . to hold into trust to pay off future debts if necessary. . ." (Deed of conveyance, 23 June 1856, p. 614)

Hicks, Thomas I., to Thomas C. Hicks. . . "deliver to the said Thomas C. Hicks the following slaves to wit; Minney, aged about twenty one years and her child Bella; Hannah aged about eighteen years; Maria, aged about twelve years; and William, aged about twenty-six years." (Deed of trust 23 June 1856, p. 616).

Hobgood, Joseph D., to Samuel Hunt. . . $430."a certain Negro boy slave named Moses about fourteen years old. . ." (12 March 1853, reg. August Court, 1854, p. 171)

Hunt, Absolom to John Kelly . . . for his daughter Adelia. . ."a certain Negro slave named Susan, a girl about fourteen years of age valued at six hundred dollars. . ." (Deed, May 1, 1854, p. 88)

Lassiter, James, to John O'Brian . . . Negro slaves Isaack, Dorsey, Betsy and Henry and their increase. . .which were. . . "bequethed to me by the will of my late father Davis Lassiter" (8 Jan 1855, Bill of sale, p. 333)

McGehee, John Y. to William R. McGehee. . . "all the right and title unto William R. McGehee, I John Y. McGehee have in two Negroes left to me by Lemuel McGehee, deceased will, woman Hannah and boy Howell, for and in consideration as legatee of Lemuel McGehee dec'd". . . (Bill of sale, 30 December 1849, registered 6 Sept. 1854, p. 141)

Mallory, Elizabeth to Elbert Nance and Virginia Nance. . . "One Negro boy slave named Daniel about five or six months old" (Deed of gift, 17 April 1855, p. 469)

Mallory, Elizabeth to John Nance & others. . . "Frances and her son Henry. . . and all the future increase of Frances" (Deed of gift, 17 April 1855, p. 468)

Minnis, James to William D. Allen . . .$300 for Negro girl Elizabeth. (13 Nov. 1852, p. 88)

Norman, Laura... "John Fullerton of the City of New York to John Johnson the following slaves... Biddy, Phillis, old Fanny, Tom, Isham, Milly, Rhody, Harriet, Susan, Armstead, Stephen, Camel, Lewis, Robert, Emeline, Bryant, Rettn, Sandy, Charles, Doctor, Collier, & Nutty with their incrase from the 16 November 1852 up to and from and after this time. To have and to hold the sum to him the said John Johnson his heirs and assigns in trust to and for the sole separate and inclusive use & benefit of the said Laura until and from and after the solemnization of the said marriage..." (Marrriage Settlement, November Court 1854, p. 221... later revoked, then made with Richard P. Taylor, p. 339 & 340... later still [1 Dec 1855] sold all claim to her father's estate to A.R. Burwell.

Paschall, L. A. to James Hackabay... "8th of November 1847, James Richards and Archibald Richards executed to me their deed of trust conveying certain Negroes... I as the trustee named in said deed did on 17th day of the month after giving due notice thereof, expose to public sale for cash the following Negro slaves, to wit. Sally, aged about thirty years, Lucy aged about two years, and Nancy & Ann aged about eight years... the sum of two thousand and fifty one dollars for the said four Negroes..." (page 32)

Reavis, Samuel to Nancy Brame... "three Negroes named Darcus, Nathan, and Mary" (Deed of gift, 20 Feb 1852, p. 303)

Royster, Edward, to Emily F. Harris (my daughter) ...certain Negro woman slaves named Ann & Martha, ages Ann twenty, Martha fourteen years old." (Deed of gift, 16 Feb 1855, p. 381)

Taylor, Lewis, to Henry A. Taylor ...for his daughter Cary Ann Paschall, for the sole separate and exclusive use... "Jane and her son Terry" (Deed of gift, 9 Sept 1852, p. 436)

Thorpe, Benjamin, Sr., to Elizabeth Brodie ...Negro slaves Lelva, Mariah and two children." (Deed of gift, 20 Nov 1846, registered May 1855, p. 397)

Thorpe, Benjamin P. to Jane Thorpe (his wife) ..."a certain Negro slave named Strefon (?) about twenty five years old." (Bill of sale, Jan 1855, p. 305)

Thorpe, Benjamin to Lucy Thorpe (his daughter) ...land...plus Negro slaves, "Rachael, Eugenia, Billy, Martha, Anderson, Addison, Ann, Sally, Polly, Ruben, Strephens, James, Green, Judy, and Gidion." (Aug 1848, pp. 305-06)

Thorpe, Benjamin to Lucy Thorpe ..."$1,000 for Negro man Haywood" (Bill of sale, 1 January 1855, p. 333)

Thorpe, Benjamin P. (as trustee for Elizabeth Taylor) to William Fuller... "the following slaves to wit. Jenny, Henrietta, Polly, Amy, Frances, a girl Caroline the increase of Henrietta" (Deed, 15 March 1855, p. 454)

Vaughn, Bedford, to William Daniel ...$1,800 payment "for two Negroes named Will & Martha. Will, a man about sixteen years old the same Negro purchased by the undersigned from L.M. Smith; Martha, a girl about fourteen years old raised by the undersigned..." (Bill of sale, 25 April 1856, p. 598)

Wagstaff, Mary to James A. Russell (acting for Mary was Donaldson P. Paschall) "A Negro slave by the name of Cornelia being the slave named in the said deed of appointment." (Deed, 19 February 1855, p. 593)

Wood, Mildred to John C. Griffin "...a Negro girl Harriet & her increase forever" (Deed of gift, 6 Aug 1854, p. 132)

DEED BOOK #19

Abstracts of Transfers of Slaves

Allen, Thomas B., to Mary E. Lawrence... "one Negro named Catherine and all the increase that she has or may have on the following condition... not be sold... not be removed from her possession... (Deed of gift, 7 March 1857, p. 321)

Blacknall, George, to Thomas A. Stewart.. $625 for "purchase of Negro Henrietta, aged eight years..." (Bill of sale, 14 March 1856, p. 284)

Clardy to Charles Hargrove... "a certain Negro girl slave and her increase named Fanny... to hold in trust for sole use of Frances Paschall..." (Deed of trust, 28 July 1857, p. 582)

Clay, Pamela & others to Archibald Clay... "a Negro woman named Cynthia and child Angeline the mother aged about 17 years & child about three months..." (Bill of sale, 16 Jan 1857, p. 645)

Cutts, Sarah to William H. Cutts...$700... "a Negro man slave about 45 years old by the name of Peter" (Bill of sale, 19 May 1857, p. 539)

Daniel, Richard, to Isabella Daniel (his daughter) "my Negroes Lucky & her children to wit, Jordan, sometimes called Lucky, Henry, Julia Ann, Joanna & Harriett..." (Deed, 30 Jan 1856, p. 47)

Davis, John, Sr., to William Boyd... relinquish right and title to salves... "Henry, Minerva & children Isaack, Betsey, Martha and Betty & daughter Delcey..." (Deed, 14 Nov 1854, p. 420)

Debnam, John B., to Thomas H. Stewart ...$1,000 in "full payment of Boy Jessie, slave for life..." (Bill of sale, 17 Dec 1857, p. 694)

Forsythe, William to Sarah A.H. Adams ..."for love and affection...two Negroes...one boy by the name of Frank about fourteen years old, Mary a girl about eight years old..." (Deed, 14 Aug 1855, reg. May Court 1857, p. 358)

Gooch, J. H., to S. Beasley ...$370..."purchase of Negro woman by the name of Eliza..." (Bill of sale, 18 Jan 1856, p. 538)

Goodwin, Samuel, to William Suit (?)...$575... "one Negro woman named Ann aged eighteen and girl named Penny aged about two years & one boy named Mark aged about two months..." (7 Feb 1838, registered May Court, 1857, p. 341)

Grissom, Willie to Gerome Grissom (son) ..."one Negro woman Lettice and her infant child about twelve months old" (Deed of gift, 18 April 1857, p. 485)

Hicks, Abner, to Robert A. Hicks... "in consideration of the love and good will and affection which I have and do bear toward my son Robert A. Hicks of the County of Franklin...my Negro boys Essex and Nicholas..." (Deed of gift, 12 Nov 1855, p. 74)

Hicks, Abner, to John B. Hicks... "a certain Negro slave named Jim aged about eighteen years..." (Deed of trust, 25 March 1856, p. 110)

Hicks, Abner to Samuel Hicks (his son) ..."my Negro boy Henry and my Negro girl Ellen..." (Deed of gift, 12 Nov 1855, p. 111)

Hicks, Abner, to Joseph M. Hicks (his son) ..."my Negro man Allen and my Negro boy Edmond..." (Deed, 12 Nov 1855, p. 112)

Hicks, Abner, to John B. Hicks (his son) ..."my Negroes Milly, Jonathan, and Alfred..." (Deed of gift, 12 Feb 1855, p. 112)

Hicks, Abner, to Joseph Hicks (his son) ..."my Negro man Edward..." (Deed of gift, 12 Nov 1856, p. 113)

Hicks, Abner, to Benjamin W. Hicks (his son) "my Negroes Richard, William & Caroline..." (Deed of gift, 13 Feb 1856, p. 113)

Hodge, Ann D. to James Hodge . . .$1,200. . .two Negroes "woman Kiziah and her child Elizabeth. . ." (Receipt, 22 May 1858, p. 714)

House, Lindsey, to James L. Strother. . . "one slave, a Negro girl named Roxana, and aged about twelve years. . ." (Bill of sale, 18 Aug 1857, p. 579)

Howard, B. D. to Joseph Howard. . . "one Negro man named Bryant aged about eighteen years for & in consideration of the sum of eleven hundred dollars. . ." (Bill of sale, 30 Nov 1857, p. 521)

Hughes, Lucy, to W. W. & Thomas C. Hughes . . .release of claim to land in return for lifetime use of slaves. . . "Negro boy Henry. . .three Negroes, Mary, Amanda, and Washington. . ." (Deed, 16 Feb 1857, p. 355)

Jeffreys, Elizabeth, to Littleton Jeffreys. . . "a certain Negro girl named Nancy about thirteen years old." (Deed of gift, 18 December 1854, p. 67)

Levister, W. R. to R. T. Long . . .$1,870. . ."certain Negro slave woman by the name of Dorsey and her two boy children the oldest named Henry and the other named Joe. . ." (Bill of sale, 26 Oct 1857, p. 538)

Littlejohn, James, to Lydia Dozier of Petersburg, Virginia. . . "Negro man Miles. . . a certain Negro girl named Alice, about twelve years of age. . ." (two deeds and/or bills of sale, plus land, 12 March 1858, pp. 624-626)

McCraw, Francis M. to George Blacknall . . ."two Negro servants by the names of Mary & Lew. . ." (Deed, 28 Oct 1857, p. 649)

Marrow, Drury S. to Mary A. Marrow (niece) . . ."one Negro girl slave named Frances aged about seven years. . . being the daughter of woman Nancy. . ." (Deed of gift, 13 March 1857, p. 419)

Marrow, Mary S. to Elizabeth D. Satterwhite (her neice) "one Negro girl named Ann/ daughter of woman Nancy/ aged about five years. . ." (Deed, p. 363)

Meadows, Hawkins, to Dennis Tilly . . ."sum of four hundred dollars. . .Negro girl, a slave named Amy and aged about twenty years old." (Bill of sale, 17 Nove, 1854, p. 5)

Overeth, Elizah, Administrator, to Zacariah Burnett . . .the following slaves, to wit, Matt and Bene. . ." (Deed, 31 Aug 1857, p. 491)

Paschall, D. A., to James Kittrell & wife Lucy . . ."Negro man by the name of Henry, aged about twelve years & Negro girl by the name of Caroline, aged about six years. . ." (Deed of gift, 18 Sept 1847, p. 683)

Paschall, D. A. to A. Landis . . .$1,750. . ."a full payment for Negro man Tom aged about twenty years. . ." (Bill of sale, 20 Jan 1858, p. 687)

Paschall, L. A. to William L. Peace . . .$580. . ."one half of the purchase money for Negro man Edmond sold by me as Trustee for D. P. Paschall". . . (Bill of sale, 27 July 1857, p. 539)

Royster, Edward, to Reuben M. Royster (his son) . . ."the following Negroes to wit, Elijah, Lucy & Spencer together with all of their increase. . . (Deed of gift, 23 Feb 1856, p. 143)

Thornton, Richard, to Elizabeth Royster . . ."a certain Negro girl by the name of Eliza. . ." (Bill of sale, 5 May 1855, p. 143)

Turner, Judeth to William L. Peace . . .$670 in full for my half in Negro man Edmund (a house carpenter). . . (Bill of sale, 10 Oct 1857, p. 565)

Walker, William, Sr., to William Walker, Jr. +320. . ."a certain Negro woman by the name of Sarah about nineteen years old and one Negro girl child of said Sarah by the name of Polly about five weeks old. . ." (Bill of sale, 1 July 1833, registered May Court 1857, p. 354)

Williams, A. D. to Josiah Crudwfs (?) $3,500. . ."Sally and her six children: Betsy, Mary, Charles, Sarah, Frances, Alfred & Jane." (Bill of sale, 12 Dec 1857, p. 359)

DEED BOOK #20

Abstracts of Transfers of Slaves

Barrows, James W. to George W. Blacknall . . ."Negro woman Fanny and child Lucy, slaves for live with all their future increase. . ." (Bill of sale, 1859, p. 201)

Bell, Hester C. to Edla L. Grandy & others (his daughter and grandchildren) ". . .my Negro woman Esther and all her children which she now has together with all the future increase. . ." (Deed of gift, p. 517)

Bell, Hester C. to Titus Grandy ". . .all my right and title and interest in a certain Negro woman of mine named Louisa for and in consideration of a certain Negro woman of the said Titus Grandy named Mowning together with the futher consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars. . ." (Bill of sale, 1860, p. 517)

Bullock, Pamelia to Weldon E. Bullock . . ."$600 to me in hand paid. . .a certain Negro boy slave name John Calvin about eight years old." (Bill of sale, 1859, p. 350)

Cheatham, Isham to Rebecca Cheatham (daughter) . . ."a certain Negro slave named Nancey. . .that I purchased of Samuel Reavis. . .to her and her heirs forever. . ." (Deed of gift, 1859, p. 331)

Clay, Allen to Peter Hays . . ."One thousand dollars to me. . . one Negro woman named Cary about thirty years old and two children a boy named Francis about two years old and one girl child not one year old named Susan. . ." (Bill of sale, 1859, p. 271)

Crews, James to Edward Crews (beloved son) . . ."one Negro boy twenty eight years old by the name of Abram to have and to hold. . ." (Deed of gift, 1855, p. 230)

Daniels, William to L. C. Edwards . . ."Jim aged about thirteen, Betty aged about eight years. . ." in trust for use of his wife Elizabeth Daniels. (Deed of trust, 1859, p. 473)

Debnam, J. B. to L. A. Paschall . . ."Negro slaves, Ben, Louisa, Mary, Delila, Henry, Creasy, Robert and Francis & child. . ." (Deed of trust, July 1858, p. 55)

Debnam, John, to Thomas Debnam ". . .slaves named Vincent, Julia, & Nancy & Madison." (Deed of trust, April 1850, registered 1858, p. 51)

Debnam, John B. to Thomas C. Debnam . . ."one Negro woman named Pressy and her two children, Dolphus and John in Trust for the sole, separate and exclusive benefit and support of my wife Damsel Debnam during her natural life. . ." (Deed, 1859, p. 316)

Duty, Samuel to Parthenia Harris (daughter) . . ."a Negro girl by the name of Nancy about fifteen years of age. . ." (Deed of gift, 1859, p. 405)

Estis, John W. to . . ". . .rec'd of Jonathan M. Stone. . .for the purchase of John W. Estis interest in the following Negroes to wit, Alfred, George, Nelson, Joanah, and Dicey, which was sold as the property of John M. Estis to satisfy sundry Fi Fa's in my hands against him. . ." (Bill of sale, 7 March 1859, p. 543)

Fleming, William to Susan A. F. Hester (daughter) . . ."the following Negro slaves named Austin, Eliza, Patty, Maryann, and Margaret and all their children. . ." (Deed, 1856, registered August 1859, p. 330)

Forsyth, John to Nancy Waller. . . ". . .my right title and interest to a certain Negro man by the name of Horris. . ." (Deed and bill of sale, 23 April 1860, p. 609)

Gill, Peter, to John H. Rowland (son-in-law). . . "a certain woman Ann Eliza aged about seventeen years. . ." (Deed of gift, 1857, p. 261)

Gooch, Joseph H., Sheriff to Augustine Landis. . . "two Negroes by the name of Billy and Anderson which was sold at the courthouse door in the town of Oxford on the 2nd day of March in all respects as the law directs as the property of David A. Paschall. . ." (Bill of sale, June 1859, p. 146)

Gooch, J. G., Sheriff to E. C. Fondau. . . "woman Parthenia & child, boy by the name of Henry. . .and woman. . .sold to satisfy a ven exps. . ." (Bill of sale, 1859, p. 219)

Hare, L. H. to James Gooch . . .$2,100 for full purchase of Negro woman and four children Mary aged about twenty three years and her children Sally aged about six years, Stephen aged about five years, Jessie aged about three years and infant child about 8 weeks old." (Bill of sale, 1858, p. 383)

Harris, Andrew to John W. Vaughn. . . "One Negro woman slave for life. . .name of Cherry aged about forty six years, one Negro girl slave for life named Angelina aged about thirteen years. . ." (Bill of sale, 1854, p. 200)

Hodge, James B. to James Duty $600 for purchase of Negro girl named Lucy. (Bill of sale, 1860, p. 528)

Hodge, March B. to James B. Hodge. . . "$500 in full it being for girl Emily. . ." (Bill of sale, 1858, p. 227)

Jeffreys, H. G. to H. K. Landis. . . ". . .my interest in the estate of Elizabeth Jeffreys. . . one slave Winny, one slave Emerline, one slave Stephen, one slave Rubian, and one slave William and their increase. . ." (Bill of sale, 3 Feb 1860, p. 585)

Kelly, Jesse to John Kelly (son). . . "a certain Negro slave named Moses a boy about sixteen years old valued at one thousand dollars." (Deed of gift, 1859, p. 488)

Land, Branton to Robert H. Vass. . . "one Negro woman Pleasant, one horse, (etc.) (Deed of trust, 1859, p. 199)

Mallory, Elizabeth to Caroll Nash (newphew). . . "one Negro slave Leeke, aged twenty nine years". (Deed of gift, p. 98)

Overby, James M. to Jasper Hicks. . . $960. . ."one Negro girl slave named Fanny, about fourteen years of age. . ." (Bill of sale, July 1858, p. 69)

Parham, Asa to Thomas Bobbitt (son-in-law) "a Negro girl by the name of Sally, now about the age of fifteen or sixteen years, & a Negro girl by the name of Susan about ten or twelve years old to have & to hold. . ." (Deed of gift, 1859, p. 359)

Parham, Lewis to Albert Parham. . . "for the sole and separate use and benefit of my grand daughters Lucy and Sarah, a Negro girl by the name of Ida, now about eight years old. . ." (Deed of gift, 1859, p. 214)

Parham, Williamson to Louisa F. Parham. . . "for the natural love and affection for my daughter. . .one Negro boy named Lewis Edward aged one year and four months. . ." (Deed of gift, p. 208)

Reeks, Thomas E. to Willie I. Newman. . . "Negro woman Eliza and her children to wit, John, Kitty & Ressis for & in consideration of the sum of two hundred and eighty five dollars" (Bill of sale, 1858, p. 183)

Richards, James to James Hockaday ". . .one hundred and fifty dollars in full pay for Negro child named Fillis aged about six months the youngest child of woman Fanny. . ." (Bill of sale, 1859, p. 510)

Roberts, Shadrack to Sarah M. Tilly . . .$500 for "all my right title in and to one Negro girl a slave named Luisa and aged about seven years. . ." (Bill of sale, p. 398)

Waller, Carter to Mary Lyon . . .my daughter. . . "for the consideration, the love and good will and affection I have. . .Negro girl Seely, about fourteen years old and her increase" (Deed, p. 89)

Wood, Mary Ann to Henry Jones. . . "the sum of $950 in full payment for Negro girl Eliza Jane aged about fifteen years. . ." (Bill of sale, 1858, p. 212)

DEED BOOK #21

Abstracts of Transfers of Slaves

Allen, Thomas B. to William D. Allen (son) . . ."a certain lot or parcel of Negroes to wit, Annis, a woman about thirty two years old & Charry a woman about seventeen years old & Lougenia, her child about two years old. . ." (Deed of gift, 1861, p. 646)

Blackwell, 1. P. to A. C. Harris. . .six Negroes. . ."Henry, Horace, Ive, Delia, Hannah, and Amy (Ann?). . ." (Bill of sale, 1864, p. 759)

Bragg, John W. to Thomas W. Bragg. . ."one Negro woman named Martha Ann and child named William. . .the sum of seven hundred dollars. . ." (Bill of sale, August Court, 1860, p. 112)

Bullock, Sarah to Cannon Hopkins. . ."one Negro slave boy Duncan about twelve years old. . ." (Within a land deed, August 1860, p. 118)

Davis, Mary A. to William H. Boyd . . .deed conveying to him the slaves in the proceedings. . ."Henry, Minerva and children Dance, Betsy and Martha, and Betty and daughter Diley. . .together with the increase. . .and their future increase. . ." (27 November 1860, p. 325)

Debnam, Thomas to Damsil Debnam (his mother) . . .relinquished his claim to title and interest in slaves "Vincent, Nancy, Julia, Lavory, George & Frank. . ." (Deed, 1860, p. 90)

Forsyth, William to Susan Forsyth. . ."one Negro boy by the name of Haywood aged four years of a yellow complexion. . ." (Deed, 1853, p. 725)

Forsyth, William to Susan . . ."one Negro girl by the name of Dicey. . ." (p. 725)

Halliburton, Lovicey to Robert (of Person County) Lundsford. . ."Negro woman Booker & her children Sally, Martha, Robert & Betty. . ." (Deed of gift, 1860, p. 397)

Hargrove, Israel W. to son Tazwell Hargrove. . ."one Negro man Lawson about twenty eight years old, one Negro woman named Isabella, one dark coloured bay mare about eight years old, one bay horse about nine years old. . .(etc.)" (Deed, 1864, p. 678)

Hargrove, Israel W. to Virginia Hargrove (daughter). . ."one Negro man named Bob Hunt about twenty nine years old, one Negro woman named Claey about twenty three years old, one dark colored mule. . .(etc.)" (Deed, 1864, p. 679)

Hudson, Cephus, to Anson Cretcher.. for $900 . . ."a Negro man named Friday aged thirty three years. . ." (Bill of sale, 1856, p. 437)

Hudson, Cephus, to Anson Cretcher. . .$600. . ."a Negro man named Jack, aged forty three years. . ." (Bill of sale, 1856, p. 438)

Hunt, Absolorn, to Eliza Hunt. . ."a certain Negro child named Emma, aged about four years. . ." (Deed of gift, 1861, p. 373)

Hunt, Absolorn, to Richard H. Hunt. . ."a certain Negro man Mirrica aged about thirty years. . ." (Deed of gift, 1861, p. 374)

Husketh, Archibald, to Thomas Bridges. . ."four Negroes namely one woman Feubuy, age about seventy years old, Rodey age about twenty five years old, one small girl Agee about three years old, one boy age about eight months old, which slaves I warrent to be of sound mind and considerable health. . ." (Bill of sale, 1860, p. 328)

Johnston, William to George W. Blacknall. . ."certain Negro slave named Kit, aged about 23 or 24 years. . ." (Mortgage, 1860, p. 91)

Jordan, William W. (state of N.C.) to William H. Jordan (state of Gerogia) "$4,050 in payment of the following Negro slaves. . .one man named Henry, one man named Stephen, one woman named Mary and her child Worley, and one woman named Margarett. . ." (Bill of sale, 1862, p. 486)

McClanaham, S. L., to Adkin Ward. . ."six hundred and ninety seven dollars being in full for purchase of Negro woman Nelly. . ." (Bill of sale, 1859, p. 333)

Mangum, Samuel, to Rebecca Freeman (his daughter). . ."one Negro woman by the name of Mary about sixteen years old. . ." (Deed of gift, 1861, p. 401)

Mitchell, Booker to William White . . ."one boy William. . ." (1864, p. 736)

Montague, Young to. . .(settlement of an estate, mentioning several slaves in the settlement. 1862, p. 492)

Newton, John (of County of Mecklenburg, State of Virginia,) to his daughter Elizabeth Walker. . ."two Negro slaves named Lucey aged about seventeen years and Negro slave child Bob about nine months old, the child of the said Negro slave Lucey. . ." (Deed of gift, 1861, p. 420)

Paschall, Daniel A. to Thomas Morriss. . ."one thousand dollars in full for purchase of Negro man Anderson about forty years old I hereby warrent said Negro to be sound in body and mind. . ." (Bill of sale, 1859, p. 74)

Paschall, Z. M. & others to James A. Russell. . .$750 for . . ."negro man Frank aged about fifty years. . ." (Bill of sale, 1863, p. 668)

Piper, Willliam to Fendal Lousterland. . ."Maria, aged about thirty years and her four children viz Horace aged about seven years; Herain aged about six years, Henron aged about five years and Lauretta aged about two years together with all. . .future increase. . ." (Deed of trust, 1861, p. 354)

Pitchford, William to William Philpott. . .land and "Negro woman named Judy and her child James with all their future increase, also two mules both bays. . ." (Deed, 1864, p. 723)

Reeks, Thomas E. to Willie J. Newman. "Negro woman Eliza and her child Kitty for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand and twenty three dollars. . ." (Bill of sale, February 1859, p. 69)

Ridley, Elizabeth to Charles Alexander . . .(mentions slaves), Otaway, Joshua, Arabella, Letilia, Euphania, Almira, Alexander, Robert, Richard, Frederick, Anderson, Volanard, Rosa, Theophalas, Aaron, Celeslia, Mary, Margaretta, Roberta, and Theodoria. (Deed of trust, July 1860, p. 50-52)

Royster, Banister to Ann W. Pittard (his daughter) "a certain Negro girl, Bettie? (Ritter?)" (Deed of gift, 1861, p. 301)

Royster, W. H. to R. M. Royster. . .the sum of $2,500. . ."one Negro woman Milly and three children Ruffin, Sally, and Estella, Milly's children and one Negro woman Elendes. . ." (Bill of sale, 1861, p. 390)

Royster, W. H. to Edward Royster. . .twelve hundred dollars. . ."one Negro boy George and one Negro woman Caroline. . ." (Bill of sale, 1861, p. 391)

Toney, John M. to Alexander Moseley. . . John M. Toney of the State of Virginia. . ."a woman named Ellen, her child Billy, and a boy named Sam, and the future increase of the said Ellen. . ." (Deed, 1861, p. 395)

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